志村貴子
koi-izi
2

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志村貴子

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Ch 6 A Walk in the Clouds
waaaah
waaaah
waaaah
HEY!
SOU-CHAN!
HE'S CRYING!
THE BABY'S HERE!
blink!
WAAAH

Ch 6 A Walk in the Clouds

STOP THAT, KUN-CHAN!
SEE?
LOOKS LIKE A MONKEY, DOESN'T HE?
THAT'S YOUR BABY BROTHER.
MY BROTHER...
AKAI-kun
THE "KUN-CHAN" WHO CALLED MY NEWBORN BABY BROTHER A MONKEY WAS MY UNCLE KAORU.
HE'S CUTE.
OH!
NICE ONE! YOU'LL BE A MODEL BIG BROTHER.
I THINK SHUN INHERITED HIS BREEZY, EASYGOING ATTITUDE MORE THAN I DID.

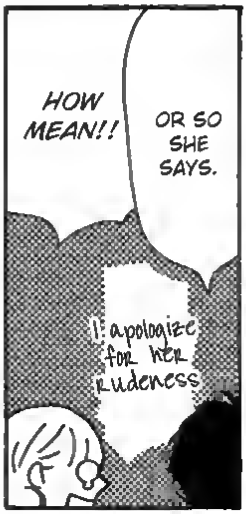
WHO TRIED HIS HAND AT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING, FROM ACTING TO RACECAR DRIVING
IN HIS YOUTH HE WAS A LADY'S MAN AND A GAMBLER,
AND NOW HE'S DEAD AT 58...
ALL THESE FUNERALS ARE GETTING ME DOWN.

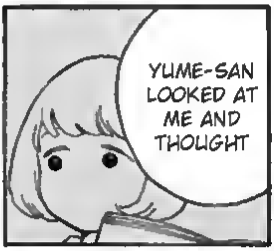
WHEN I WAS A KID,
I WAS SCARED OF DEATH.
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT MY PARENTS DYING, BUT I WAS TERRIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MY OWN DEATH.
THEN AT SOME POINT, THAT FEAR WAS REPLACED BY THAT OF LOSING SOMEONE I LOVED.

WHEN I WAS A KID...
THANKS FOR COMING.
I DON'T WANT EVERYONE TO DIE!
Waaaah
OR, NOT THAT THEY COULDN'T DIE,
BUT JUST LIKE I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT ALL.
OH, YEAH,
ME, TOO.
I THOUGHT GROWN-UPS COULDN'T DIE.

HUH!? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
APPARENTLY I WAS REALLY ANTSY THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

THEY SAID I WAS THIS 5-YEAR-OLD KID PACING BACK AND FORTH IN THE WAITING ROOM LIKE AN EXPECTANT FATHER.
The kid who followed Yume-chan everywhere, even to the hospital
WORRY
WORRY


HOW MEAN!!
OR SO SHE SAYS.
I apologize for her rudeness


YUME-SAN LOOKED AT ME AND THOUGHT

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
DIDN'T YUME-SAN EVER TELL YOU?

YOU REALLY DO SEE ME AS A DAUGHTER OR A LITTLE SISTER.

SIGH... WELL, THAT EXPLAINS IT.
MAYBE HEARING THAT WILL FINALLY HELP ME GET OVER YOU.
It does make me happy, though

A,
A MAN!
Don't say that, it sounds so lewd!

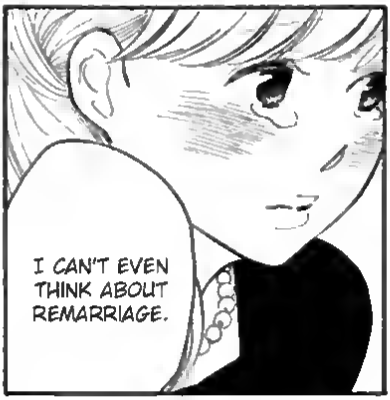
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW
IS WHEN YOU STOPPED SEEING ME AS THE NEIGHBOR BOY AND THOUGHT OF ME AS A MAN?

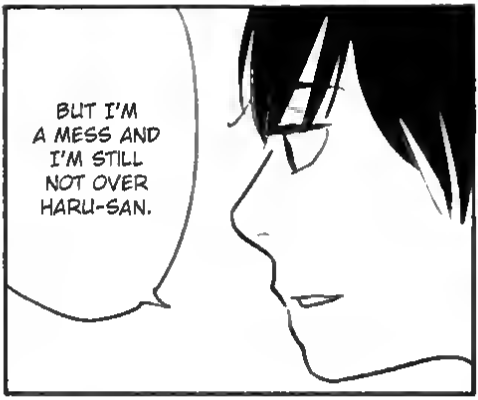
YOU WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH THE FIRST TIME
YOU TOLD ME HOW YOU FELT, RIGHT?

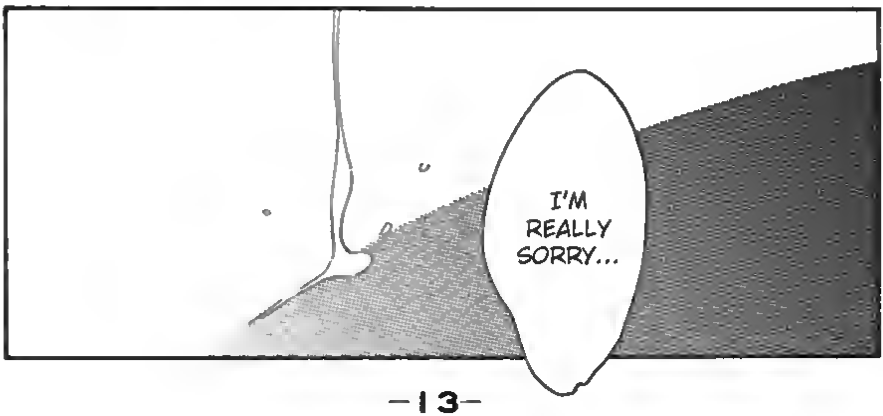
WHEN DID YOU START THINKING OF ME THAT WAY?
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO ANSWER THAT AFTER YOU REJECTED ME!?
... SORRY.
sniffle
WHEN I WAS IN ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL ...

I THOUGHT
IT WAS A VAGUE, CHILDISH THOUGHT.
YOU LIKED MY SISTER.
BUT IT WAS THERE.
THAT WAS PROBABLY
THE START OF IT.
SORRY.
I KNOW
I KEEP SAYING THIS, BUT...
NO, I'M SORRY...
FOR NOT GETTING TO THE POINT.
UGH!
ENOUGH! YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WHAT THE HELL?
SO YOU LIKED ME BECAUSE I LIKED YUME-SAN ...?

I DO THINK YOU'RE CUTE.
AND IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT YOU LIKE ME.


I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT REMARRIAGE.


BUT I'M A MESS AND I'M STILL NOT OVER HARU-SAN.


I'M REALLY SORRY...

THANKS FOR TURNING ME DOWN PROPERLY, THOUGH...
I DID
LIKE YUME-SAN.
THOUGH YOU'VE TURNED ME DOWN SO MANY TIMES ALREADY!
AND I WAS JUST AS PERSISTENT AS YOU.
SHE WAS PROBABLY MY FIRST LOVE.

I HOPE YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO'LL BE WHAT HARU-SAN WAS TO ME.

I THINK KINDNESS IS A SORT OF CRUELTY.

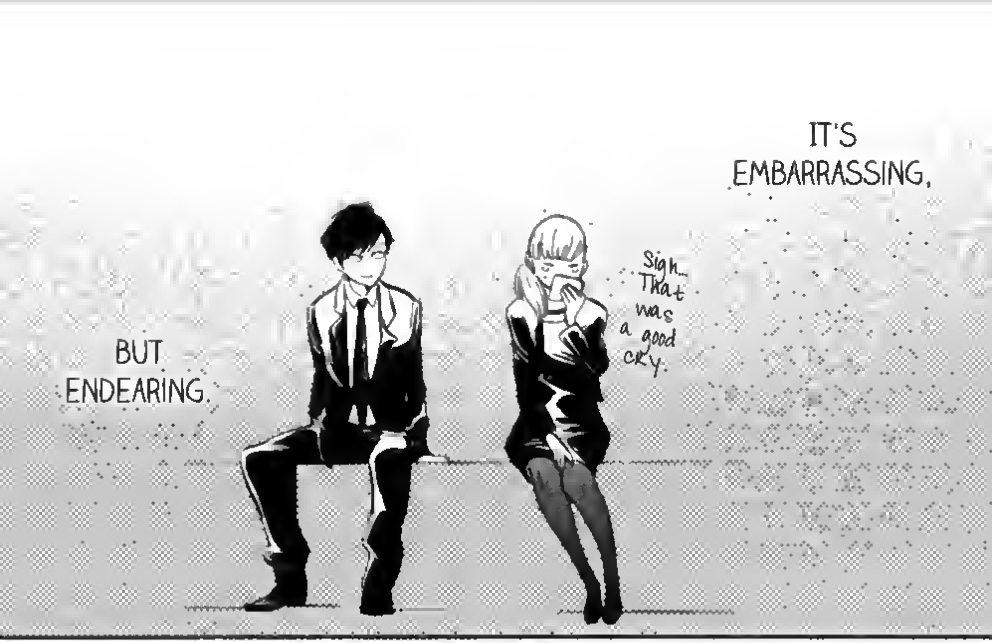
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE KINDER TO COLDLY REJECT HER.

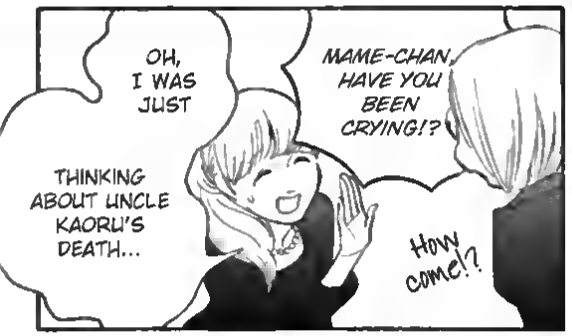
BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN PARTICULARLY KIND

AND I'VE TURNED HER DOWN MULTIPLE TIMES.

THE WAY SHE KEEPS CLINGING TO ME

JUST REMINDS ME OF MYSELF...


IT'S EMBARRASSING.
BUT ENDEARING.
Sigh... That was a good cry.


OH, I WAS JUST
THINKING ABOUT UNCLE KAORU'S DEATH...
MAME-CHAN, HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING!?
How come!?

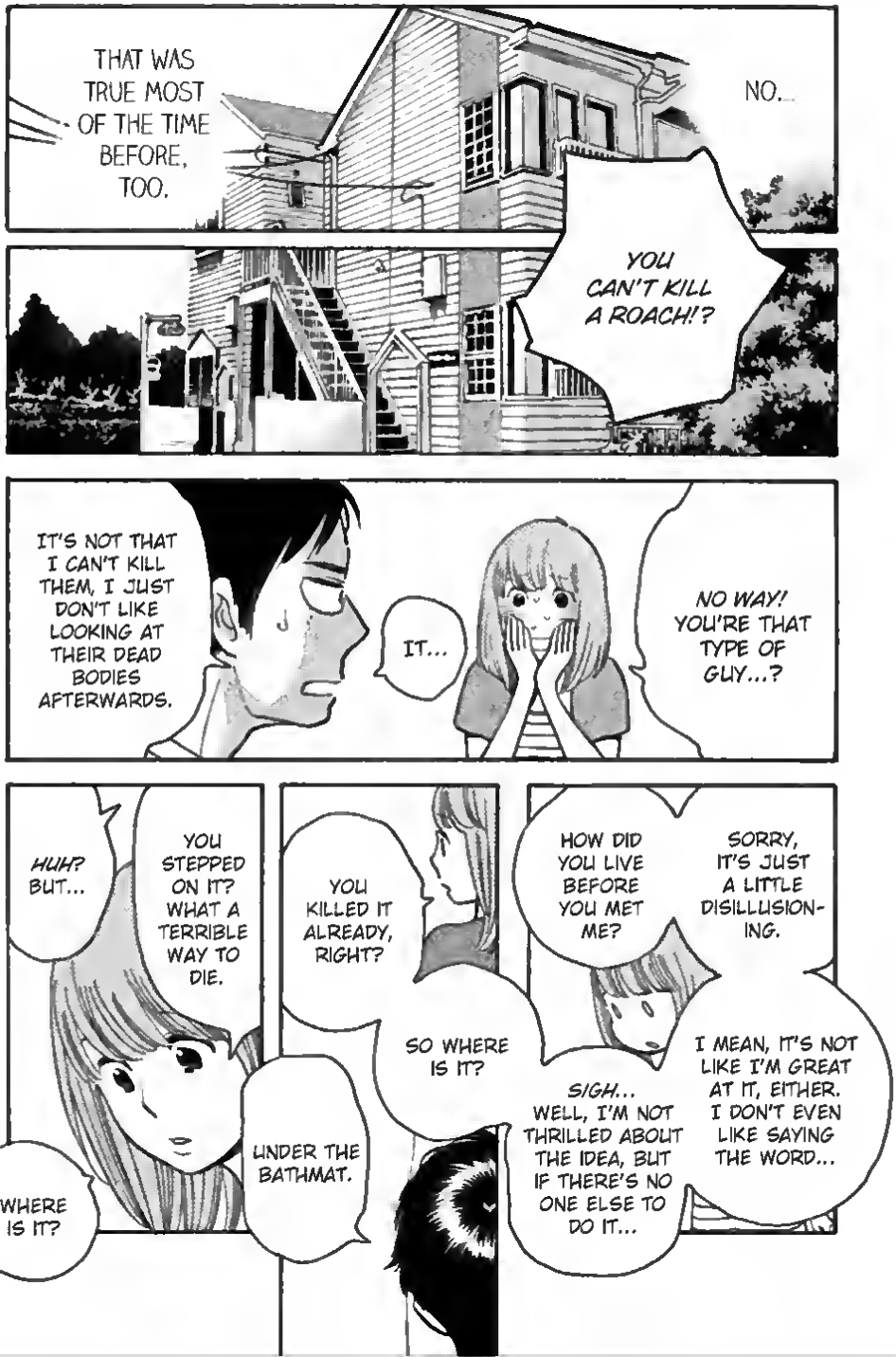
SERIOUSLY!?
WHY??
Heyyyy
No, wait
Hey hey
I DIDN'T MAKE HER CRY.
WELL, I DID, BUT...
DID YOU MAKE HER CRY, SOUTA?

THERE YOU ARE, SOUTA-KUN!

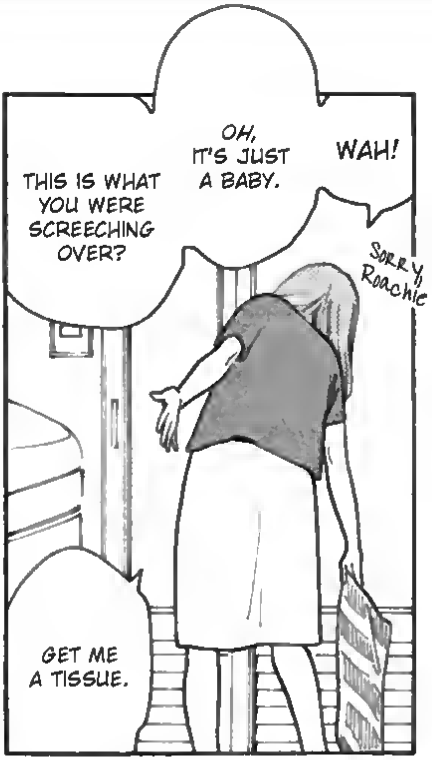
THE TAXI'S HERE!
OH?
WOW...
YU...!
MAME-CHAN LIKES SOUTA-KUN.
ALL RIGHT, THEN, TAKE CARE.
YOU, TOO. HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
NO, THANKS. WE'LL COME OVER AGAIN TOMORROW.
YOU SHOULD STAY THE NIGHT.
OH!
I'D SAY HE LOOKS MORE LIKE SHUN-CHAN ...
BUT IF I HAD TO PICK,
HE LOOKS LIKE YOU, TOO,
HE SURE DOES.
UNCLE KAORU LOOKS JUST LIKE SHUN-CHAN, DOESN'T HE?

I GUESS?
WAS THAT SHUN-CHAN'S WIFE WITH HIM!?
HE SAID SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TODAY BECAUSE OF WORK, BUT SHE CAME AFTER ALL.
BYE-BYE, SHUN-CHAN!
BYE!
SHALL I TURN BACK?
OH, NO, IT'S OK. SORRY.
I'D LIKE TO MEET HER, TOO.
I WISH I'D GOT TO MEET HER.

YOU TWO HUNG OUT A LOT TODAY.
AUNTIE YUME'S REALLY FUNNY, ISN'T SHE?
YEAH, SHE PLAYED WITH ME.
HM?
SOOOO...
SHE'S REALLY PRETTY...
AND NICE...
HARU-SAN...
IT'S BEEN A WHIRLWIND SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE
I KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS TO SAY.
PLEASE DON'T SAY IT.

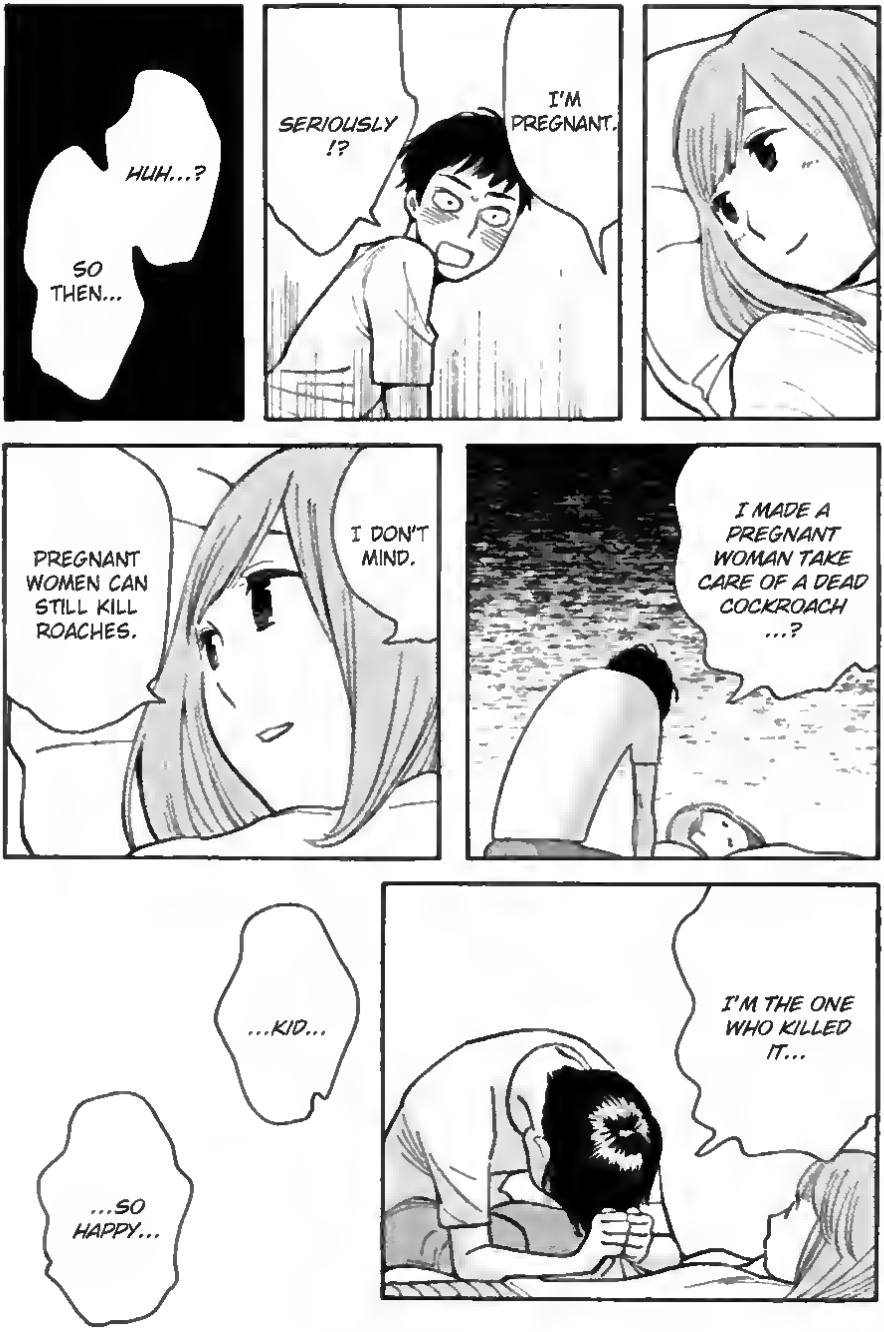

THAT WAS TRUE MOST OF THE TIME BEFORE, TOO.
NO...
YOU CAN'T KILL A ROACH!?
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T KILL THEM, I JUST DON'T LIKE LOOKING AT THEIR DEAD BODIES AFTERWARDS.
IT...
NO WAY! YOU'RE THAT TYPE OF GUY...?
HUH? BUT...
YOU STEPPED ON IT? WHAT A TERRIBLE WAY TO DIE.
WHERE IS IT?
UNDER THE BATHMAT.
YOU KILLED IT ALREADY, RIGHT?
SO WHERE IS IT?
HOW DID YOU LIVE BEFORE YOU MET ME?
SIGH... WELL, I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT THE IDEA, BUT IF THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO DO IT...
SORRY, IT'S JUST A LITTLE DISILLUSIONING.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GREAT AT IT, EITHER. I DON'T EVEN LIKE SAYING THE WORD...

THROW AWAY THE MAT.
HUH? YOU'RE JUST GONNA WIPE IT OFF?


WAH!
OH, IT'S JUST A BABY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE SCREECHING OVER?
SORRY, ROACHIE
GET ME A TISSUE.

JUST HOW MUCH OF A TIGHTASS ARE YOU? YOU'RE PATHETIC!
BETTER TIGHT THAN LOOSE.
What a thing to say!!

THAT'LL TAKE THE SHINE OFF ANY ROMANCE...
SIGH...
TODAY WAS FUN.


HUH...?
SO THEN...
SERIOUSLY !?
I'M PREGNANT.
PREGNANT WOMEN CAN STILL KILL ROACHES.
I DON'T MIND.
I MADE A PREGNANT WOMAN TAKE CARE OF A DEAD COCKROACH ...?
...KID...
...SO HAPPY...
I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED IT...

I'M NOT GOING TO BE SCARED OF ROACHES ANYMORE.
YOU CAN STILL BE SCARED.
I'M SCARED OF THEM, TOO.
... THANK YOU...
DID YOU FORGET HOW TO SPEAK?
I USED TO MAKE MY PARENTS DO IT WHEN I LIVED AT HOME.
OR ASK A FRIEND.
BUT IF THERE'S SOMEONE MORE SCARED THAN ME, THEN I'VE JUST GOT TO SUCK IT UP, RIGHT?
I WAS PRETTY IMPRESSED WITH MYSELF FOR BEING ABLE TO DO IT.

SO GO AHEAD AND FREAK OUT ALL YOU WANT WHEN YOU FIND A ROACH.
I WANT THAT SORT OF FAMILY.
WHAT SORT OF FAMILY IS THAT?

I STILL DON'T LIKE ROACHES.

TO BE HONEST,

AND ANYWAY, OUR HOUSING SITUATION AND PREVENTION METHODS HAVE CHANGED, SO I DON'T SEE THEM MUCH THESE DAYS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I TRY TO HIDE IT

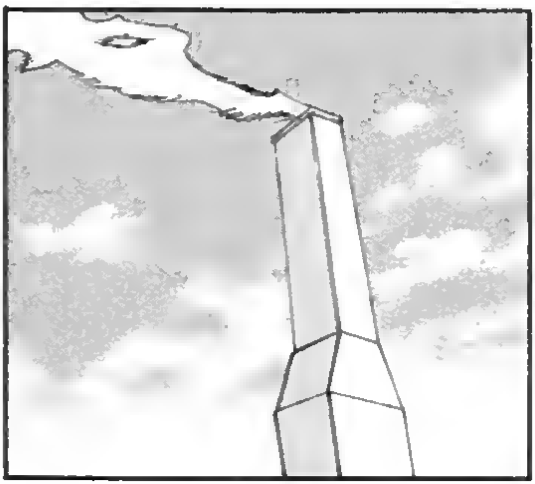
BUT WHEN YU'S AROUND

WOULD I STILL SCREECH AND MAKE A FUSS EVERY TIME I SAW ONE?

IF HARU-SAN WERE HERE,

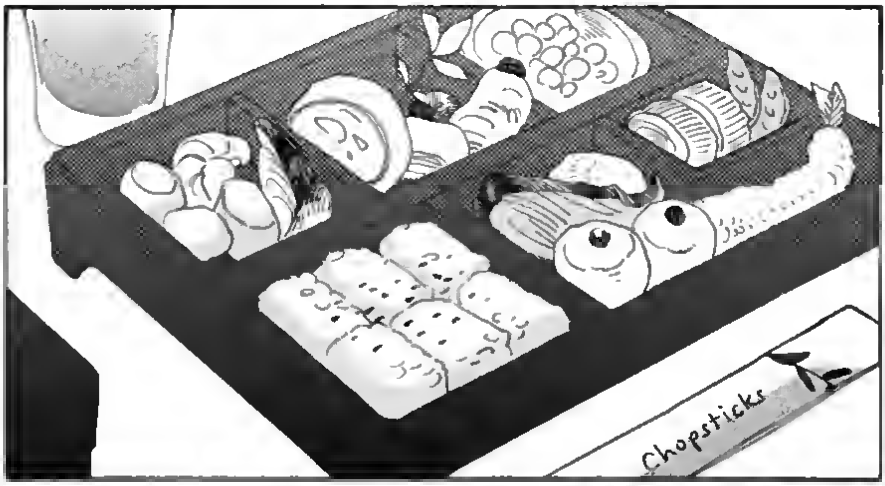
AND WHEN I WAKE UP, I'M CRYING.

NOTHING'S REALLY CHANGED



I STILL SEE HER

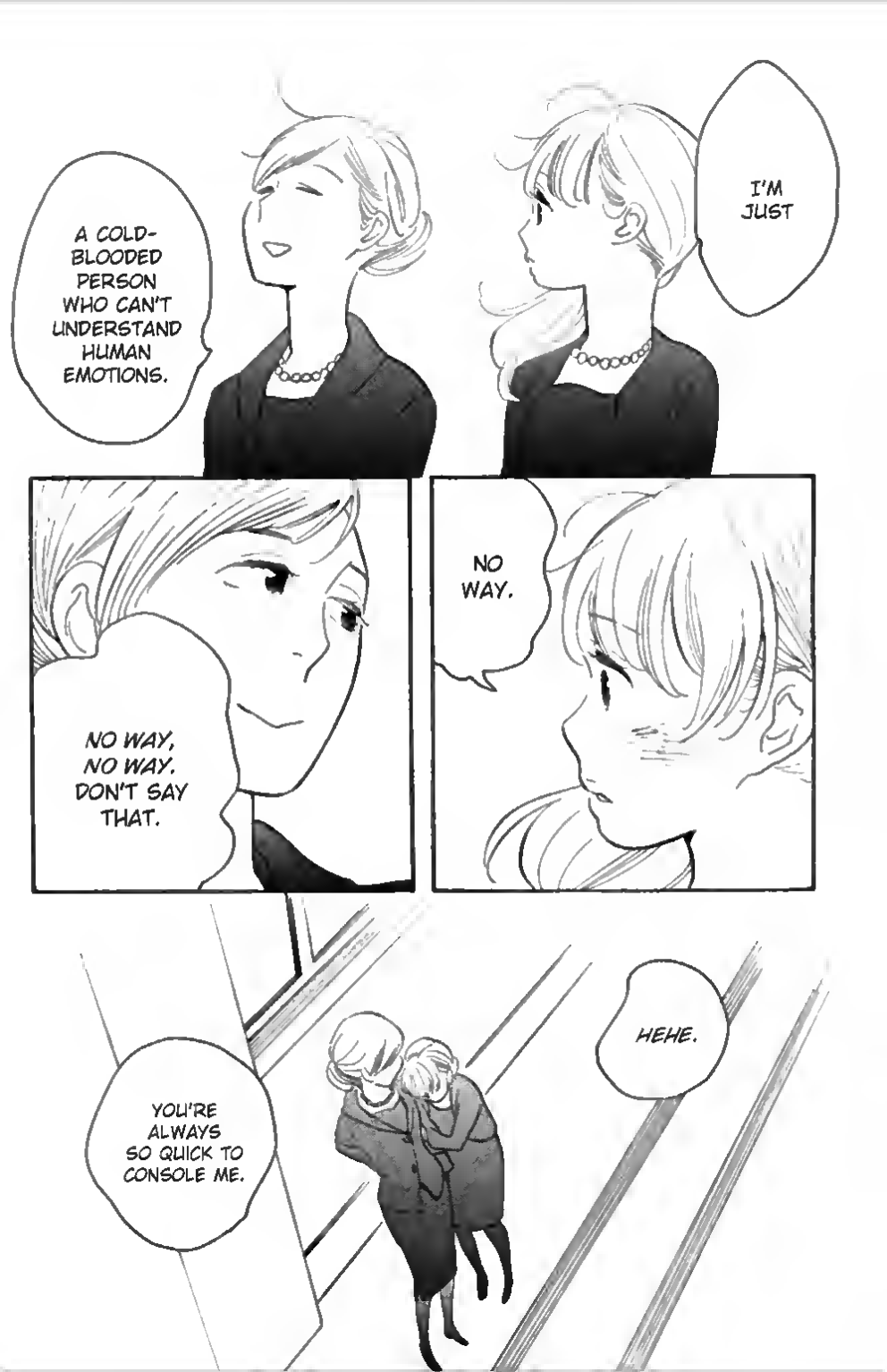
IN MY DREAMS.



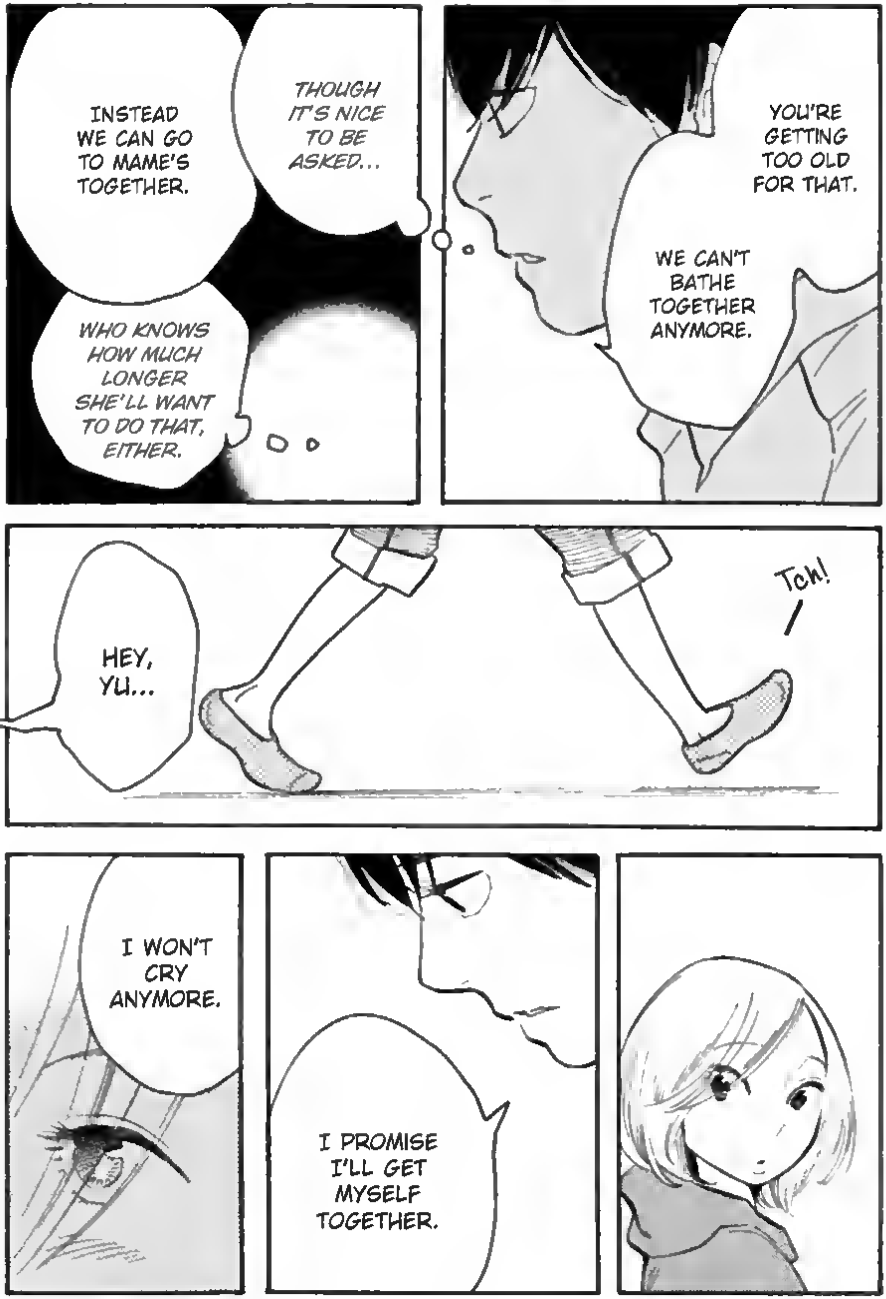
I DON'T LIKE ALL THESE FUNERALS.

IS IT REALLY OK THAT I DIDN'T COME TO THE SERVICE?
OH, HARU-SAN'S ...?
YEAH.
IT WAS JUST SO SUDDEN.
YEAH.
WHAT?
WHEN DID YOU START LIKING SOUTA?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN.
Hee hee hee
BESIDES, HE ALREADY TURNED ME DOWN! DON'T TWIST THE KNIFE!

HOW DARE HE TURN DOWN MY SISTER...
REALLY?
REALLY.
UGH, JEEZ, HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU BE HIS FIRST LOVE?
HE NEVER COULD SAY NO TO ME.
IF YOU'RE REALLY SET ON MARRYING HIM, JUST TELL ME, OK?
I'VE ALREADY DESTROYED SO MANY.
DREAMS, HUH?
DON'T SHATTER HIS DREAMS ...
DID HE SAY THAT?


I'M JUST
A COLD-BLOODED PERSON WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND HUMAN EMOTIONS.
NO WAY.
NO WAY, NO WAY. DON'T SAY THAT.
HEHE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUICK TO CONSOLE ME.

Spritz
Spritz
402
AKAI
pppht
THE BATH'S READY!
beeeeep—♪
YOU GO FIRST, SOUTA-KUN.
NO, YOU CAN GO FIRST, YU.
OH, THEN HOW 'BOUT WE BOTH GO?
NO. WE CAN'T.

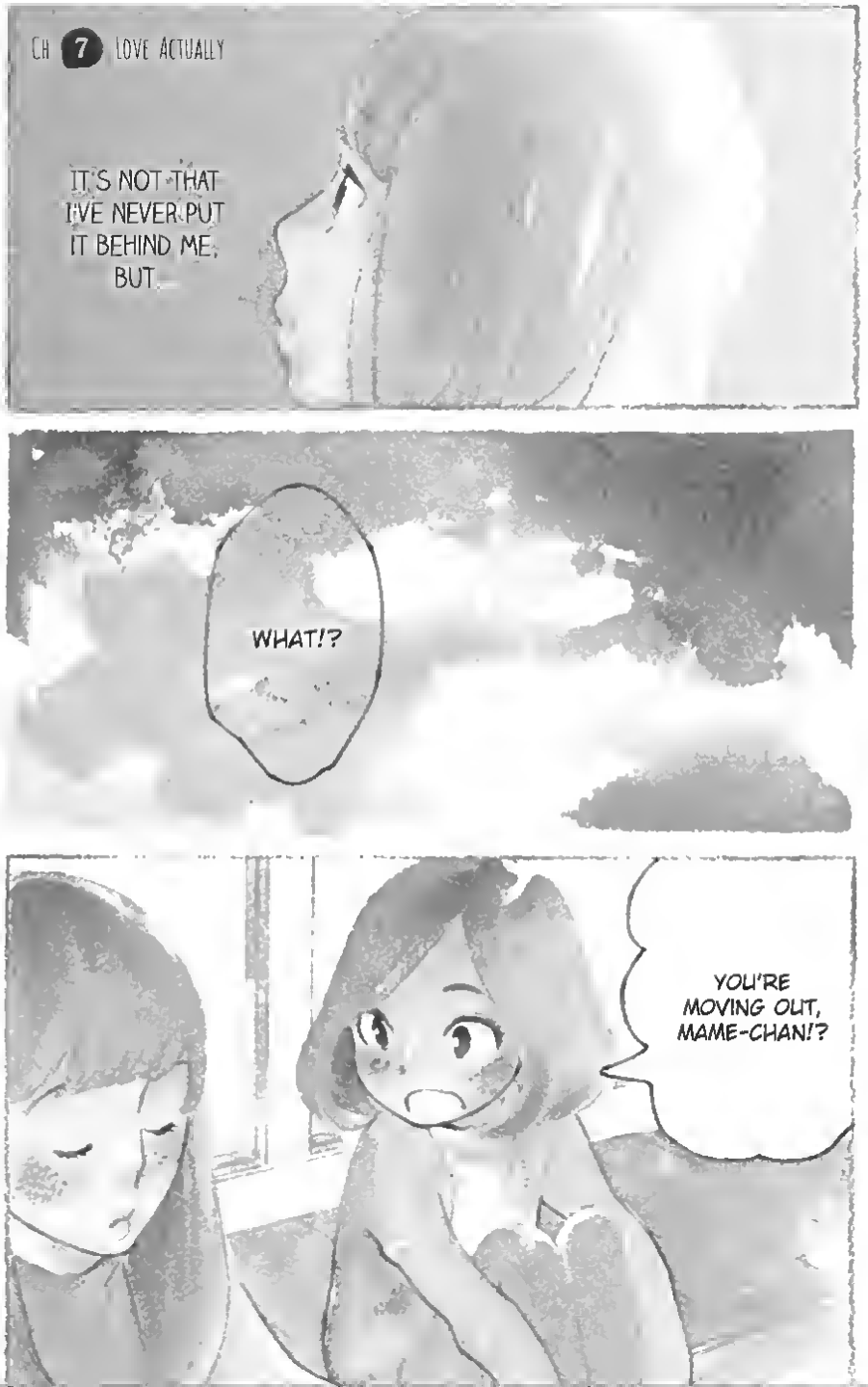

INSTEAD WE CAN GO TO MAME'S TOGETHER.
THOUGH IT'S NICE TO BE ASKED...
WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH LONGER SHE'LL WANT TO DO THAT, EITHER.
YOU'RE GETTING TOO OLD FOR THAT.
WE CAN'T BATHE TOGETHER ANYMORE.
HEY, YU...
Tch!
I WON'T CRY ANYMORE.
I PROMISE I'LL GET MYSELF TOGETHER.

Oof!
THUD
I NEVER SAID YOU SHOULDN'T CRY!!
NOT RIGHT IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS.
WHAT'S A SOLAR PLEXUS?
IT'S OK TO CRY.
I CRY ALL THE TIME, TOO.

That was fast!
HARU-SAN ...
I'LL TRY MY BEST FOR HER SAKE!
FOR OUR YU...

こいしび

By Shinoda Takako

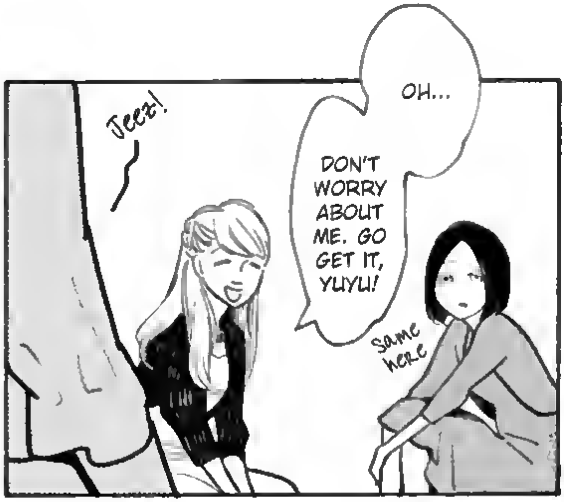

CH 7 LOVE ACTUALLY
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE NEVER PUT IT BEHIND ME, BUT...
WHAT!?
YOU'RE MOVING OUT, MAME-CHAN!?

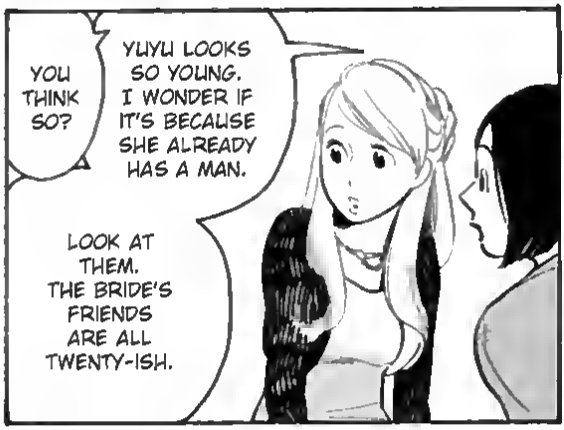
Ch. 7 Love Actually

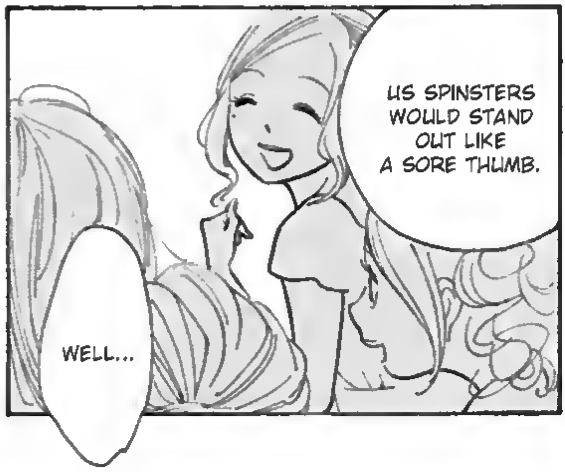
A
Yamamoto - Sanada Wedding
B
Akai - Kishi Wedding
OH!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE BRIDE?
I DID! SHE'S SOOOO PRETTY!
THERE YOU ARE, MAME-CHAN!
SHUN LOOKED REALLY HANDSOME, TOO. AND HE ISN'T BLOND.
REALLY !?
SORRY I'M LATE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE BRIDE AND GROOM!
OOH! THEY DO SAY CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN,
BUT I GUESS HE REALLY IS SOU-CHAN'S BROTHER. HE'S SO HANDSOME!
WHAT ?
SORRY, MAME, BUT I THINK SHUNTA'S HOTTER THAN HIS BROTHER.
HUH!?
ANYWAY, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT IN FRONT OF YAMAUCHI-KUN!?
GIVE IT A REST THIS IS EMBARRA-SSING.
WAIT A MINUTE, I CAN'T JUST LET THAT GO!

YOU TWO ARE ACTING LIKE A COUPLE OF AUNTIES FIGHTING OVER POP IDOLS.

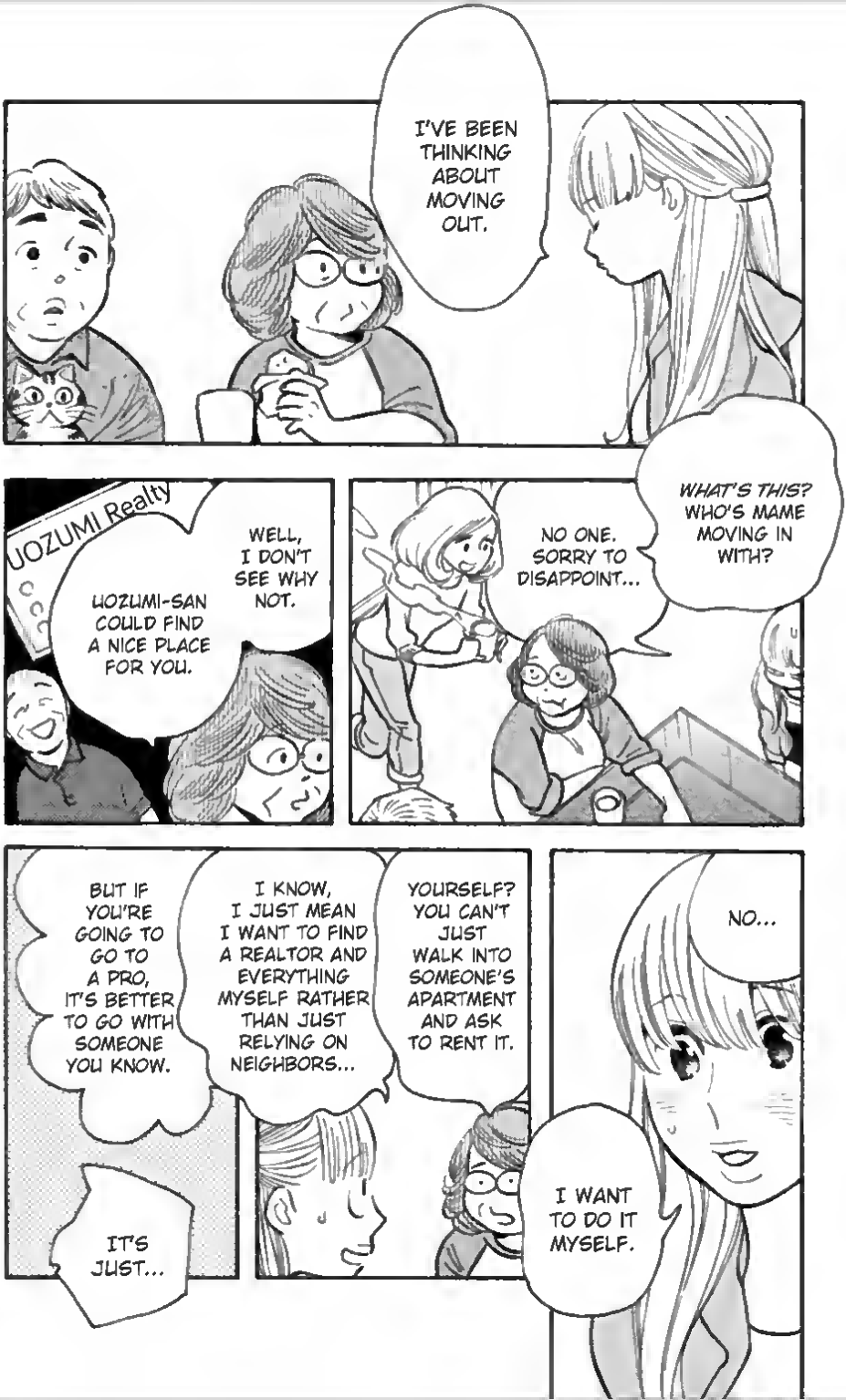

Jeez!
OH...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GO GET IT, YUYU!
Same here

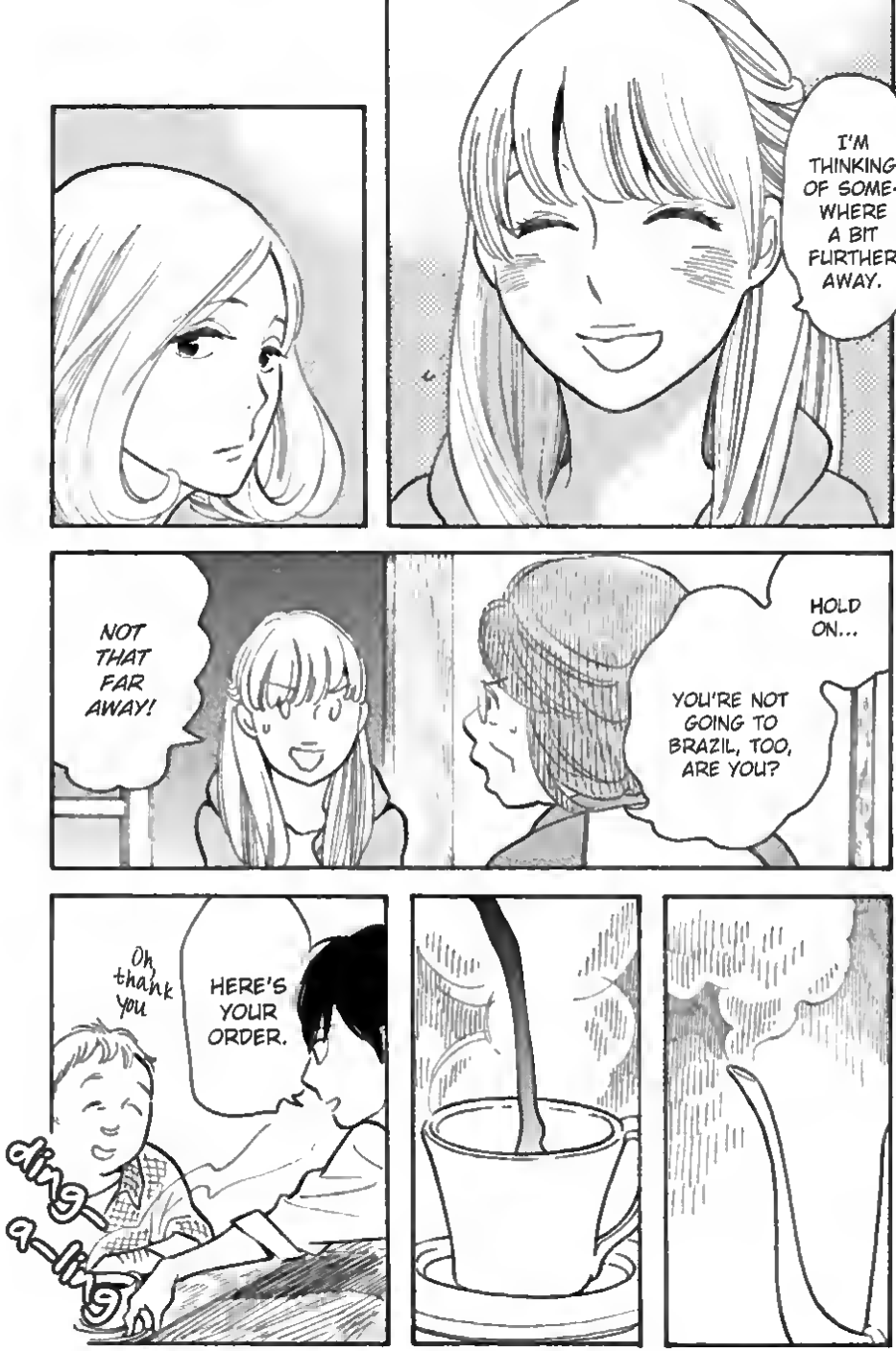

YUYU LOOKS SO YOUNG. I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE SHE ALREADY HAS A MAN.
YOU THINK SO?
LOOK AT THEM. THE BRIDE'S FRIENDS ARE ALL TWENTY-ISH.


US SPINSTERS WOULD STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
WELL...

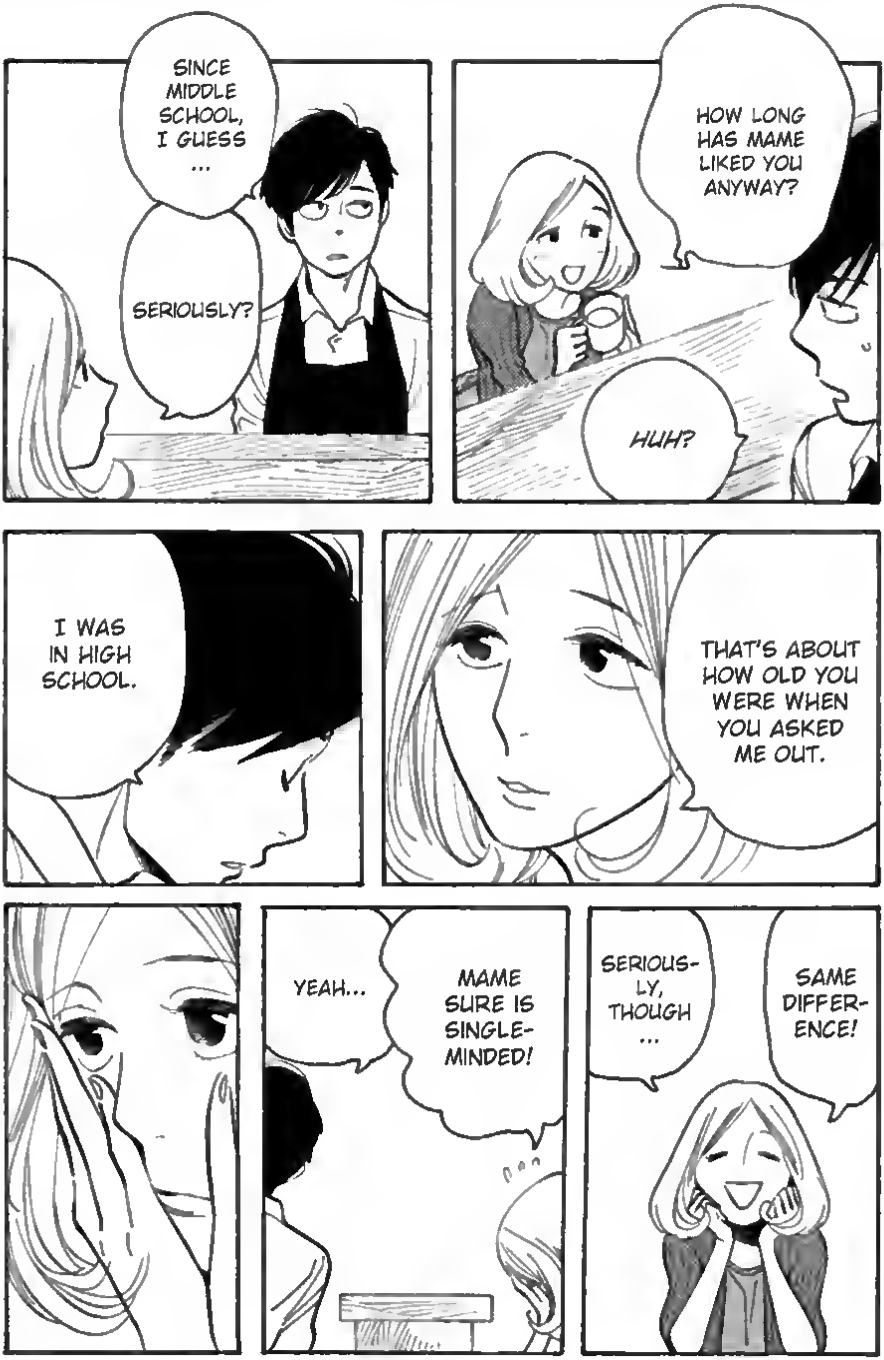
SHE'S GOING TO THROW THE BOUQUET.

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW
WITH EACH YEAR, EACH DAY THAT PASSES, THAT HAPPENS MORE AND MORE
I HAVE TO RETHINK THINGS
SO...


I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MOVING OUT.
UOZUMI Realty
WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
UOZUMI-SAN COULD FIND A NICE PLACE FOR YOU.
NO ONE. SORRY TO DISAPPOINT...
WHAT'S THIS? WHO'S MAME MOVING IN WITH?
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO A PRO, IT'S BETTER TO GO WITH SOMEONE YOU KNOW.
I KNOW, I JUST MEAN I WANT TO FIND A REALTOR AND EVERYTHING MYSELF RATHER THAN JUST RELYING ON NEIGHBORS...
YOURSELF? YOU CAN'T JUST WALK INTO SOMEONE'S APARTMENT AND ASK TO RENT IT.
IT'S JUST...
NO...
I WANT TO DO IT MYSELF.


I'M THINKING OF SOME-WHERE A BIT FURTHER AWAY.
HOLD ON...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BRAZIL, TOO, ARE YOU?
NOT THAT FAR AWAY!
HERE'S YOUR ORDER.
Oh thank you
ding-a-ling

HEY.
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
WELL, YOU TURNED HER DOWN, DIDN'T YOU?
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
WHY IS IT MY FAULT?
I AM LEAVING HER ALONE.
MAME'S AN ADULT, TOO, JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
Maybe too much

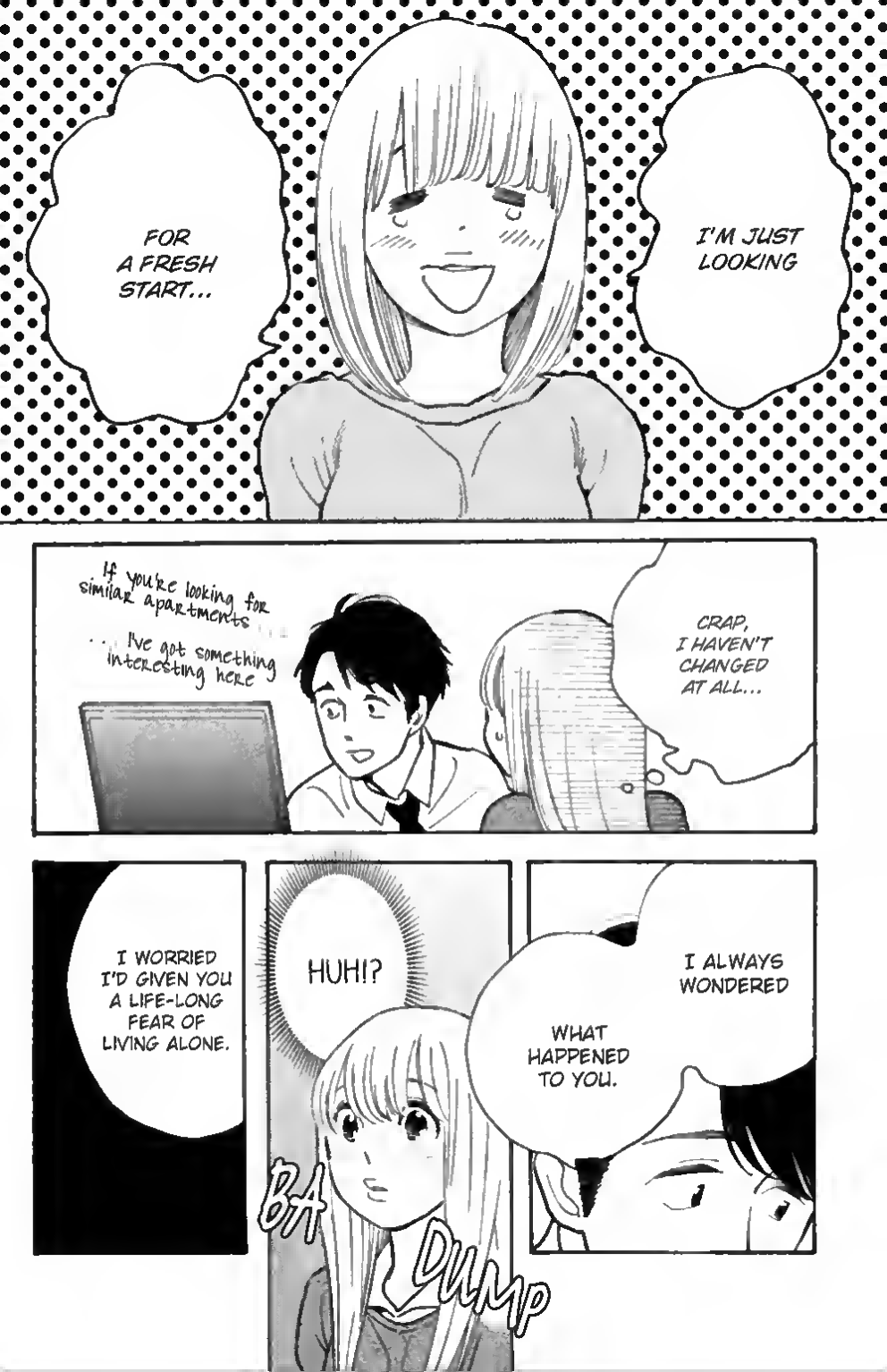

SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, I GUESS ...
SERIOUSLY?
HOW LONG HAS MAME LIKED YOU ANYWAY?
HUH?
I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
THAT'S ABOUT HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN YOU ASKED ME OUT.
YEAH...
MAME SURE IS SINGLE-MINDED!
SERIOUS-LY, THOUGH ...
SAME DIFFER-ENCE!

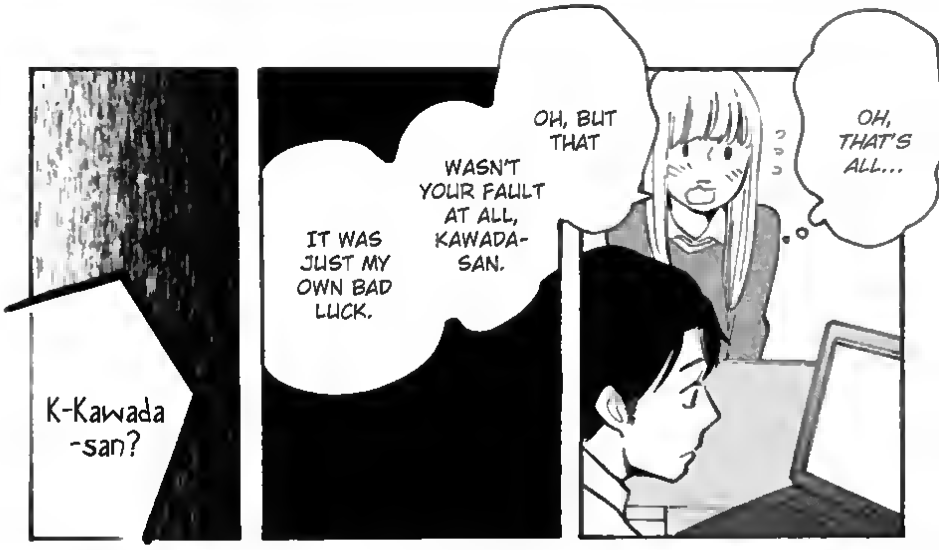
HUH?
YOU TWO ARE ALIKE.
IS SHE TOO MUCH LIKE YOU, THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SEE HER IN A ROMANTIC LIGHT?
I GUESS THAT MEANS I'VE GOT NO ROOM TO TALK, EH?
DON'T RUB IT IN...
YOU WERE PRETTY SINGLE-MINDED ABOUT ME, TOO.

Sign: Apartments / Condos

Rental Inquiry
AND SAW THE NAME OHARA MAME.
I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN I CHECKED MY EMAIL
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
OH YEAH?
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?
SORRY! I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A FRESH START.
offer...
OH, LET ME GIVE YOU MY CARD.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I WAS NEW AT THIS BACK THEN AND WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY.
OH, R-RIGHT ...

I'VE RECENTLY BEEN PROMOTED TO MANAGER.
I hope I'll be a good partner in helping you find a place!
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
1LDK
LDK
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK
AND KYOICHI CHEATED ON ME
WAS AFTER SOU-CHAN HAD REJECTED ME
THE FIRST TIME I LIVED ALONE
102


I'M JUST LOOKING
FOR A FRESH START...
If you're looking for similar apartments... I've got something interesting here
CRAP, I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
HUH!?
I WORRIED I'D GIVEN YOU A LIFE-LONG FEAR OF LIVING ALONE.
BA DUMP


K-Kawada-san?
IT WAS JUST MY OWN BAD LUCK.
OH, BUT THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT AT ALL, KAWADA-SAN.
OH, THAT'S ALL...

WHAT!?
I'M OUTSIDE... BUT I CAN HEAR NOISES COMING FROM INSIDE...
I'M TOO SCARED TO GO IN...
I'M SO SORRY.

THIS,
THIS IS OHARA FROM #102.

NO, I'M SORRY FOR NOT CLOSING THE WINDOW.
NOT ONLY DID HE INVADE YOUR HOME, BUT HE MADE SUCH A MESS, TOO!!
Threw up on the table
IT'S OK. I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T A BURGLAR.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS, KAWADA-SAN.
WHAT A NICE GUY!
WOW, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WRITE A LETTER.
" Sorry for the trouble the other day. "
OH.
YAMA-MOTO-SAN'S HUSBAND !?

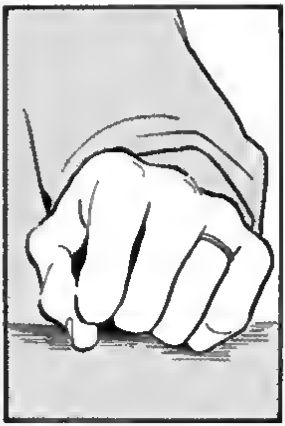
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
To make it up to you, we'd like to buy you dinner.
OH...
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TODAY.
I'm glad I wasn't late
I GUESS YOUR WIFE'S NOT HERE YET.
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD DO THIS ANOTHER TIME...?
THEN...
SHE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
HUH...?

HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO ME, BUT...
I'M SCARED THAT I'M GOING TO COME HOME ONE DAY
AND FIND HIM WAITING INSIDE...
I'M SORRY...

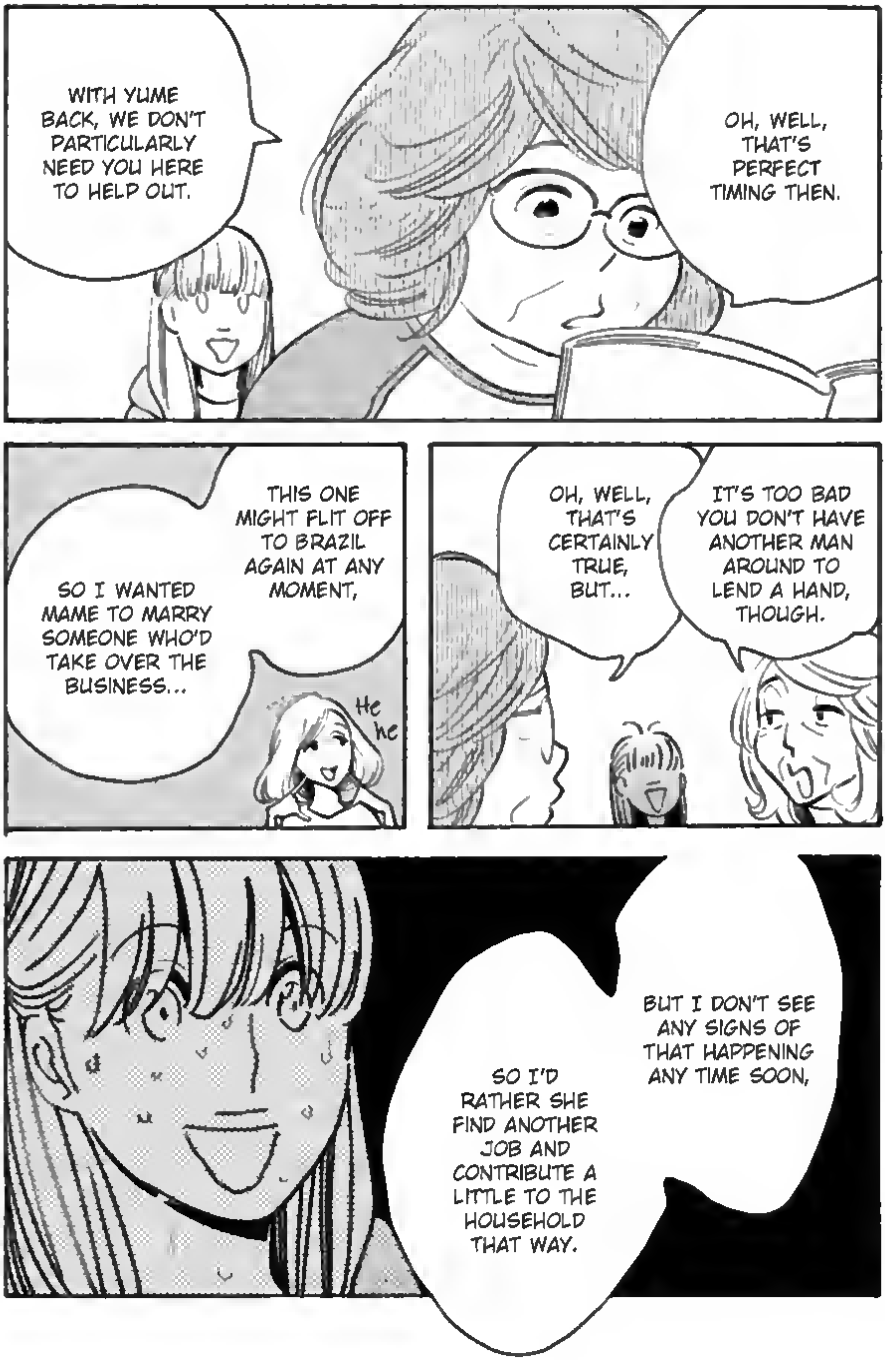
OF COURSE I WASN'T TOTALLY IMMUNE TO HIS KINDNESS.

I'D BEEN REJECTED, CHEATED ON, AND NOW STALKED, AND THERE HE WAS BEING SO NICE TO ME.

BUT I QUICKLY VACATED THE APARTMENT AND MOVED BACK HOME, AND NEVER SAW KAWADA-SAN AGAIN.

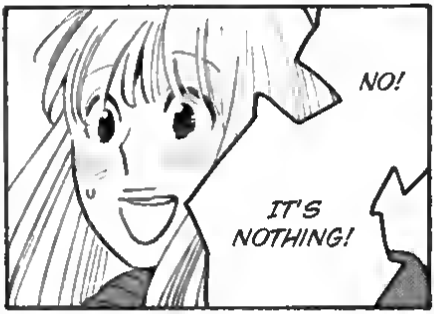


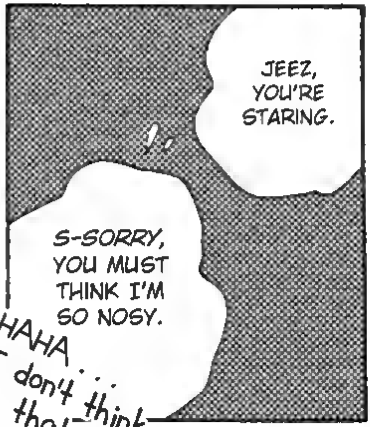
THIS TIME I'LL FIND YOU A NICE, SAFE PLACE.
I'M GLAD I GOT TO SEE HIM AGAIN ..
Thank you!
THANK YOU FOR HIRING ME AGAIN!
NO, THANK YOU, I NEEDED THE HELP!
Cafe & Restaurant
SUMIRE
CLOSED
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OK WITH NOT TAKING OVER THE BATH HOUSE?
WELL...
MY SISTER'S BACK, SO...

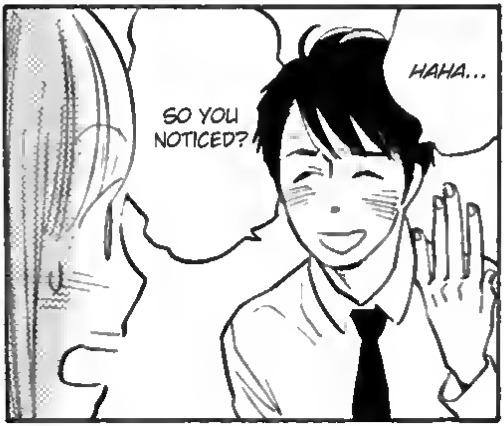

WITH YUME BACK, WE DON'T PARTICULARLY NEED YOU HERE TO HELP OUT.
OH, WELL, THAT'S PERFECT TIMING THEN.
SO I WANTED MAME TO MARRY SOMEONE WHO'D TAKE OVER THE BUSINESS...
THIS ONE MIGHT FLIT OFF TO BRAZIL AGAIN AT ANY MOMENT,
He he
OH, WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE, BUT...
IT'S TOO BAD YOU DON'T HAVE ANOTHER MAN AROUND TO LEND A HAND, THOUGH.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF THAT HAPPENING ANY TIME SOON,
SO I'D RATHER SHE FIND ANOTHER JOB AND CONTRIBUTE A LITTLE TO THE HOUSEHOLD THAT WAY.

Note Rooms are usually described using units of tatami mats rather than meters. 8 mats is a large room, approximately 13 square meters.

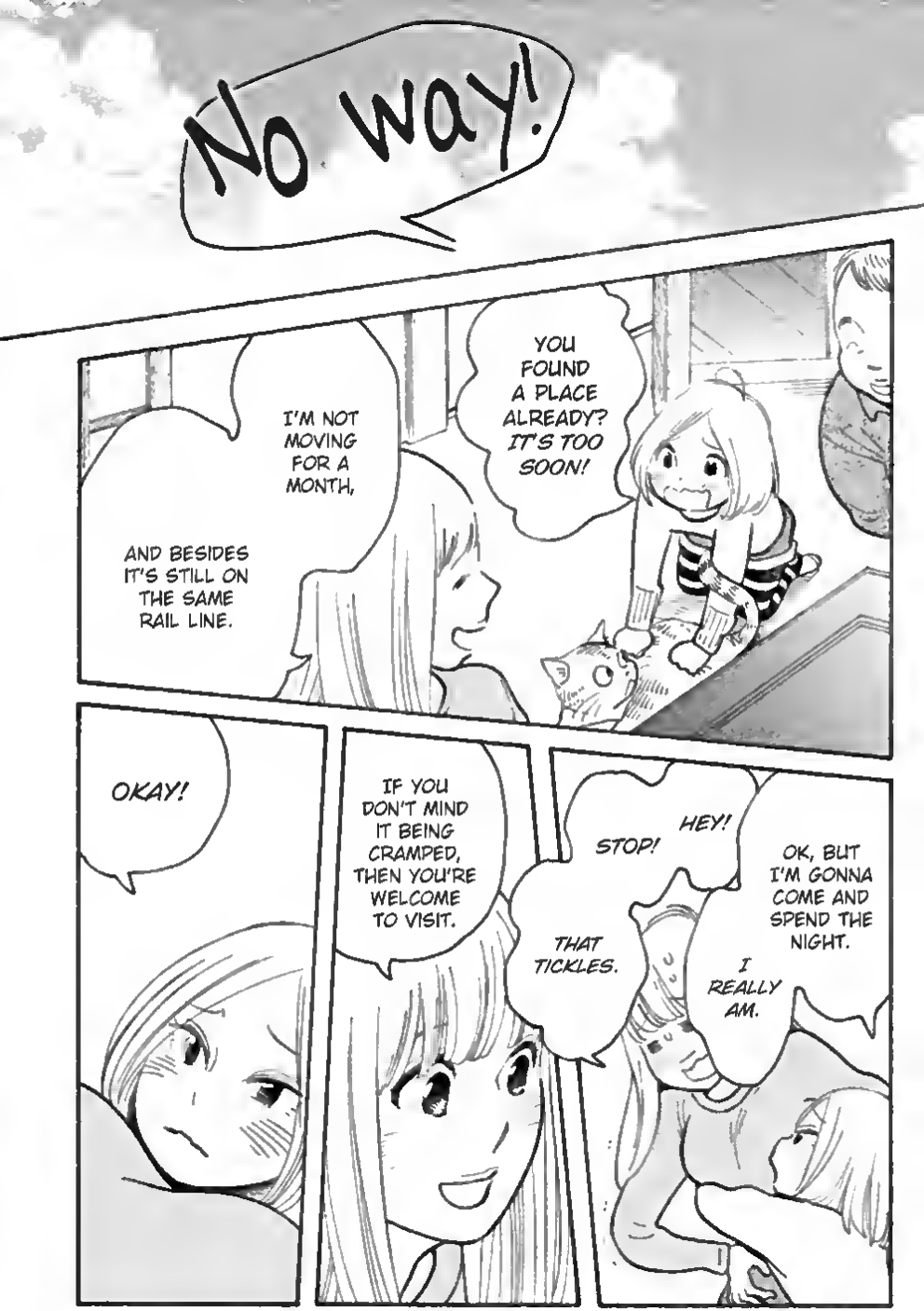
UH...


NO!
IT'S NOTHING!


JEEZ, YOU'RE STARING.
S-SORRY, YOU MUST THINK I'M SO NOSY.
HAHAHA... I don't think that at all!


HAHA...
SO YOU NOTICED?

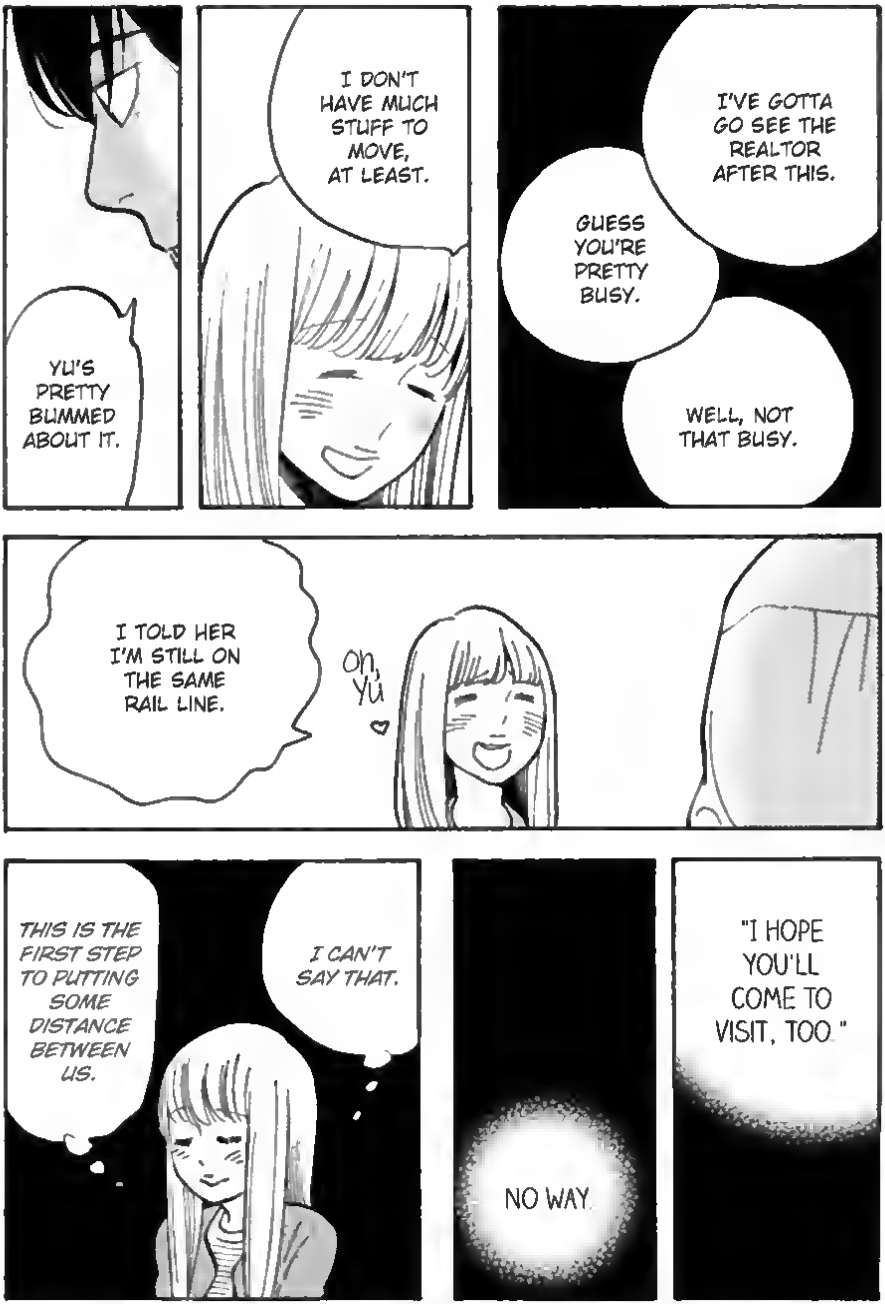
IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO YEARS NOW...
Yep, I'm divorced
OH NO.
I'VE JUST BEEN REJECTED ONCE AGAIN
OH CRAP.
AND NOW KAWADA-SAN IS SINGLE.
CRAP.

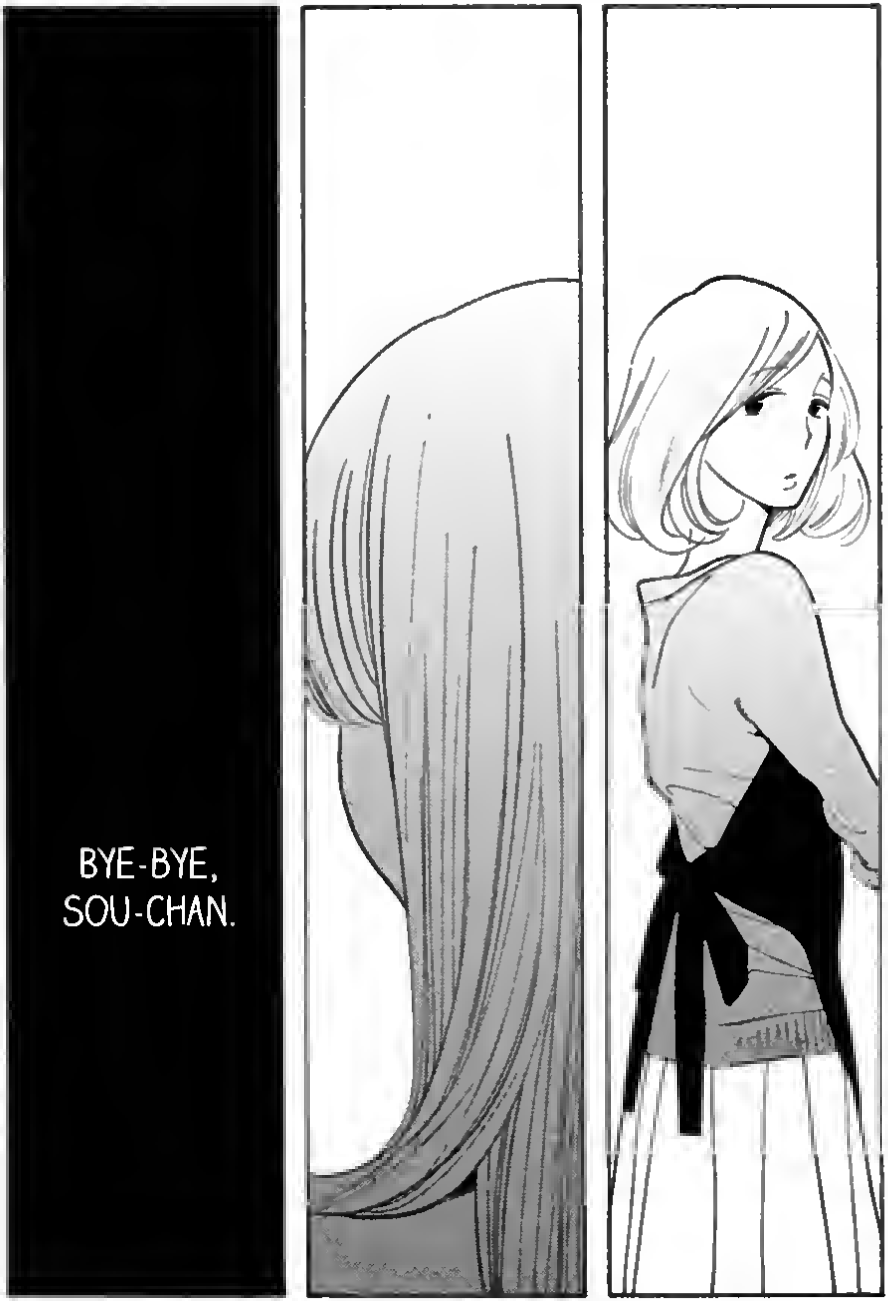

No way!
YOU FOUND A PLACE ALREADY? IT'S TOO SOON!
I'M NOT MOVING FOR A MONTH,
AND BESIDES IT'S STILL ON THE SAME RAIL LINE.
OKAY!
IF YOU DON'T MIND IT BEING CRAMPED, THEN YOU'RE WELCOME TO VISIT.
HEY!
STOP!
THAT TICKLES.
OK, BUT I'M GONNA COME AND SPEND THE NIGHT.
I REALLY AM.

MAME-CHAN!
MIRIN
CAN YOU GO TO SOUTA-KUN'S FOR SOME COFFEE BEANS?
OKAY.
MAKE SURE YOU GET HIM TO GRIND THEM.
I KNOW.
EXCUSE ME.
ding-a-ling

WELCOME!
WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?
Sorry to keep you waiting
OH ...
I JUST CAME TO GET SOME COFFEE GROUND.
Mandheling
RIGHT, RIGHT.
THE USUAL, THEN?
OH, YEAH.
THIS IS FOR TABLE 3.
RIGHT.

SINCE SHUN'S
WORKING FOR HIS IN-LAWS,
I NEEDED SOMEONE FOR THE LUNCH RUSH.
OH, I SEE.
I GUESS YOU'LL BE MOVING SOON.
YEAH.

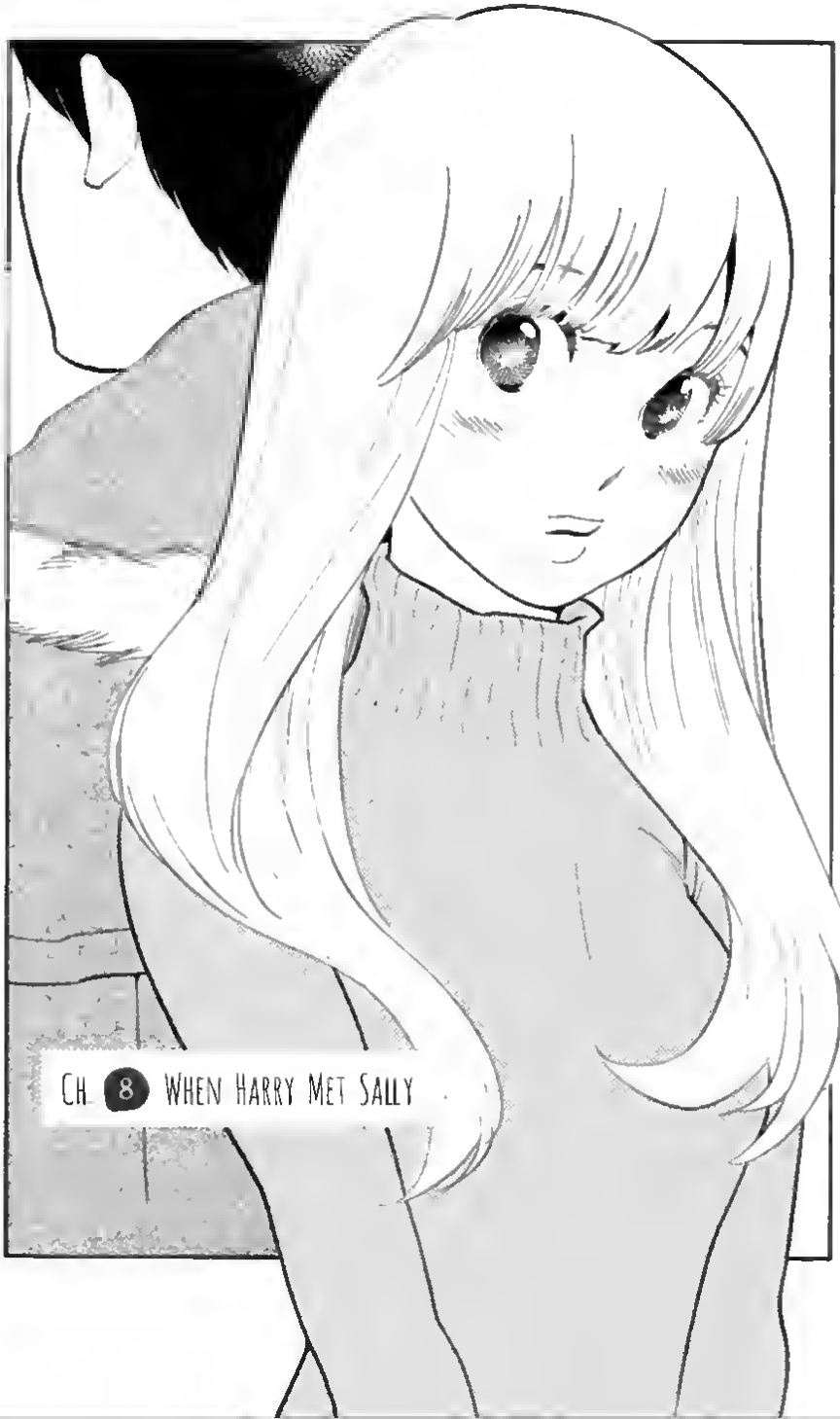

YU'S PRETTY BUMMED ABOUT IT.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH STUFF TO MOVE, AT LEAST.
GUESS YOU'RE PRETTY BUSY.
I'VE GOTTA GO SEE THE REALTOR AFTER THIS.
WELL, NOT THAT BUSY.
I TOLD HER I'M STILL ON THE SAME RAIL LINE.
Oh, Yu
THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO PUTTING SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
I CAN'T SAY THAT.
NO WAY.
"I HOPE YOU'LL COME TO VISIT, TOO."

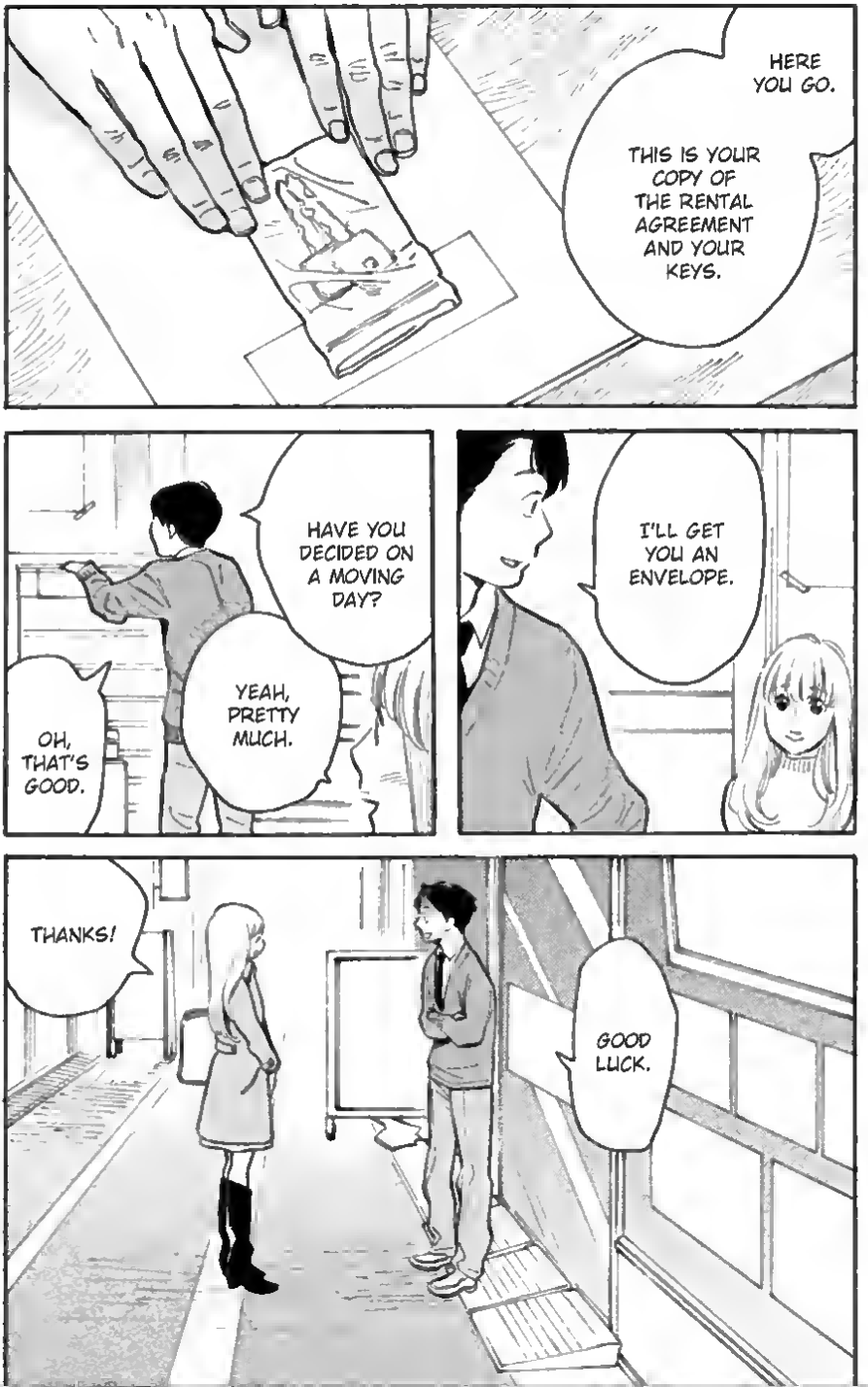

BYE-BYE,
SOU-CHAN.

こいいじ

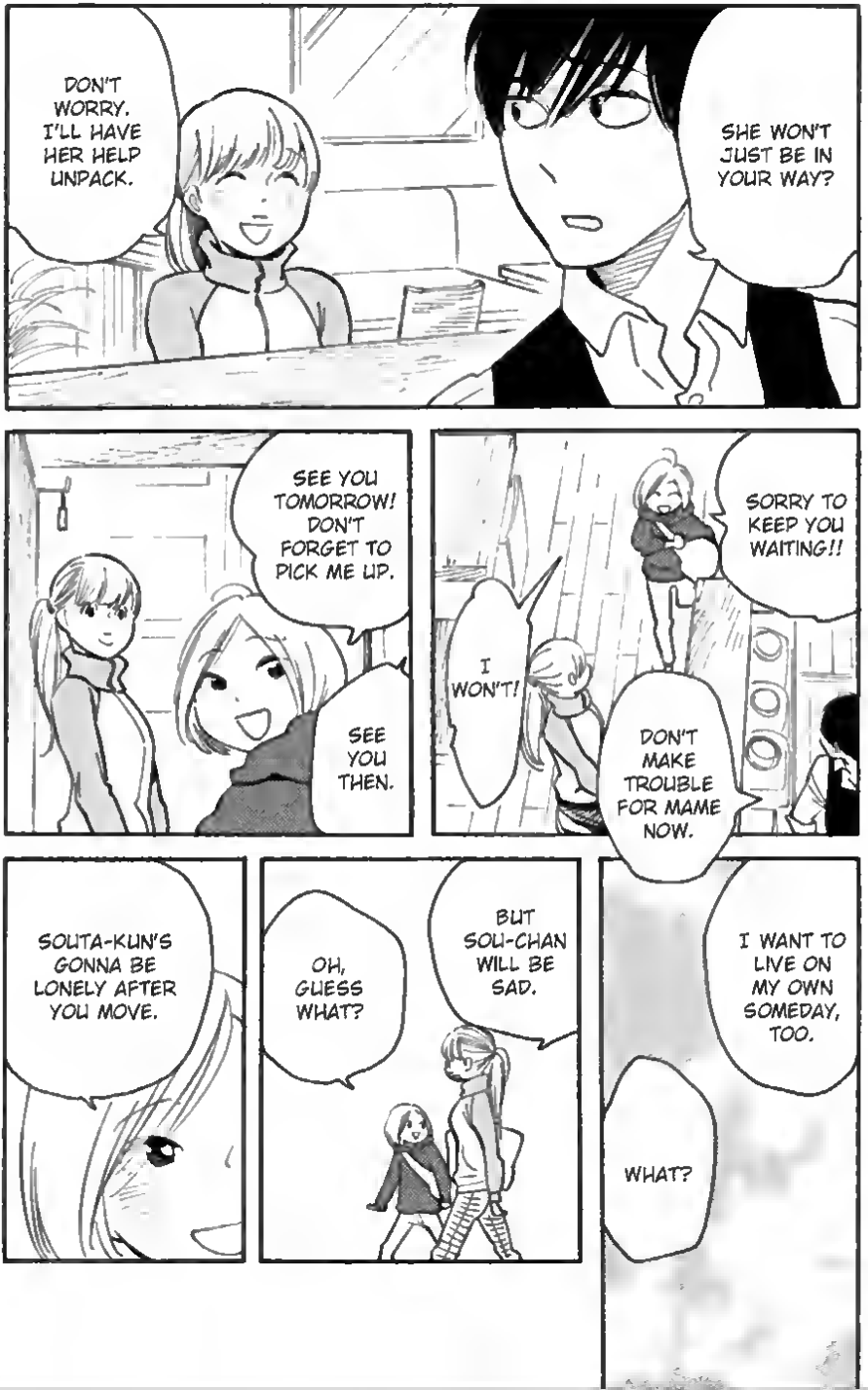
By Shinoda Takako

McCHAN
MuCHAN
MIGEPH
MIGERL


Ch. 8 When Harry Met Sally


HERE YOU GO.
THIS IS YOUR COPY OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT AND YOUR KEYS.
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A MOVING DAY?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
OH, THAT'S GOOD.
I'LL GET YOU AN ENVELOPE.
THANKS!
GOOD LUCK.

HIKKOSI HIKKOSI
I'LL BE FINE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED ANY HELP?
YU'S GONNA COME OVER.
YU-CHAN !?
THANK YOU!
WE'LL BE READY TO LEAVE IN ABOUT AN HOUR.
ARE YOU SURE?

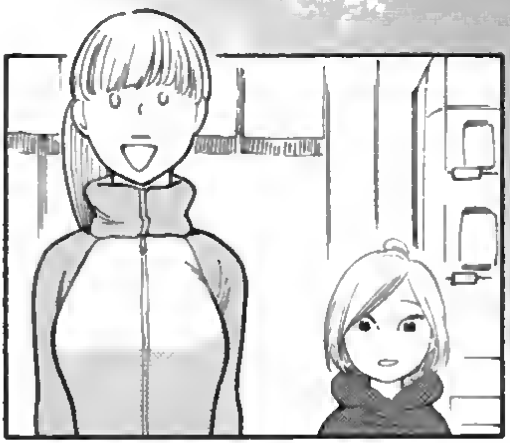

DON'T WORRY. I'LL HAVE HER HELP UNPACK.
SHE WON'T JUST BE IN YOUR WAY?
SEE YOU TOMORROW! DON'T FORGET TO PICK ME UP.
SEE YOU THEN.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
I WON'T!
DON'T MAKE TROUBLE FOR MAME NOW.
SOUTA-KUN'S GONNA BE LONELY AFTER YOU MOVE.
OH, GUESS WHAT?
BUT SOU-CHAN WILL BE SAD.
I WANT TO LIVE ON MY OWN SOMEDAY, TOO.
WHAT?

YOU'RE LYING.
ULP!
STARE
WH-WHAT!?
I'M...NOT LYING...
I'M SORRY, TOO.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT YOU WANT ME TO BE PART OF YOUR FAMILY,
BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

SO I CAN'T BE YOUR NEW MOM.
SOU-CHAN LOVED HARU-SAN BEST AND HE ALWAYS WILL.
OH... THEN I GUESS IT'S TRUE.
YEAH.
DID SOUTA-KUN TELL YOU THAT?
OH...
I'M SORRY.
Let's get something to eat.
I DON'T THINK HE WAS LYING...
HUH?
RIGHT??
OH, YEAH...
RIGHT?
IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT MAME-CHAN AROUND.

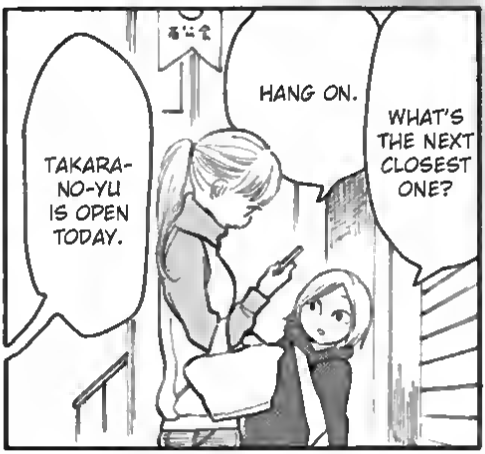
RIGHT? EVERYTHING'S SO CRAMPED.
WOW, IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST MOVED IN.
Ack!
WH-WHAT IS IT!?
I FORGOT TO NOTIFY THE GAS COMPANY!!
WE CAN JUST GO TO A BATH HOUSE.
WE CAN'T USE THE BATH TONIGHT...
WHICH MEANS ...?
JEEZ, YOU STARTLED ME.

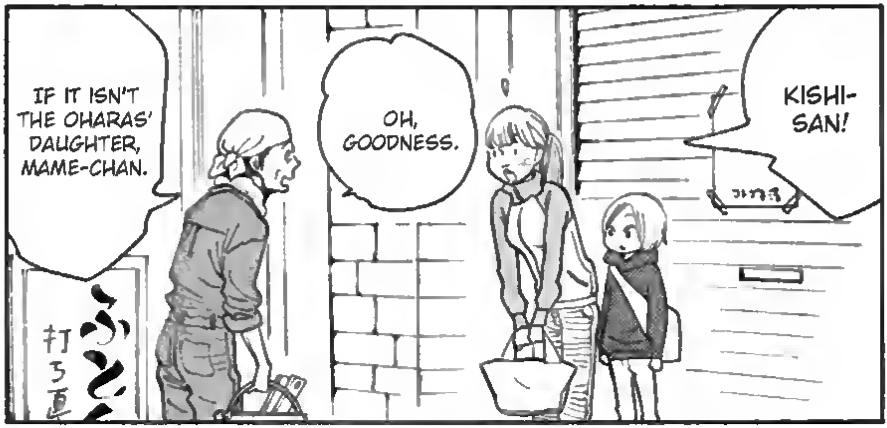
LOOKS LIKE THIS PLACE CALLED KOTOBUKI-YU IS THE CLOSEST.
HOW EMBARRASS-ING...
YOUR FAMILY OWNS A BATH HOUSE AND YET YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT...?
UGH!
RIGHT, SO FIRST WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE BOXES WITH TOWELS AND UNDERWEAR!
YEAH!
WE PASSED A DRUG STORE ON THE WAY, SO WE CAN STOP IN THERE FIRST.
DID YOU GET EVERYTHING?
YEAH, PROBABLY.

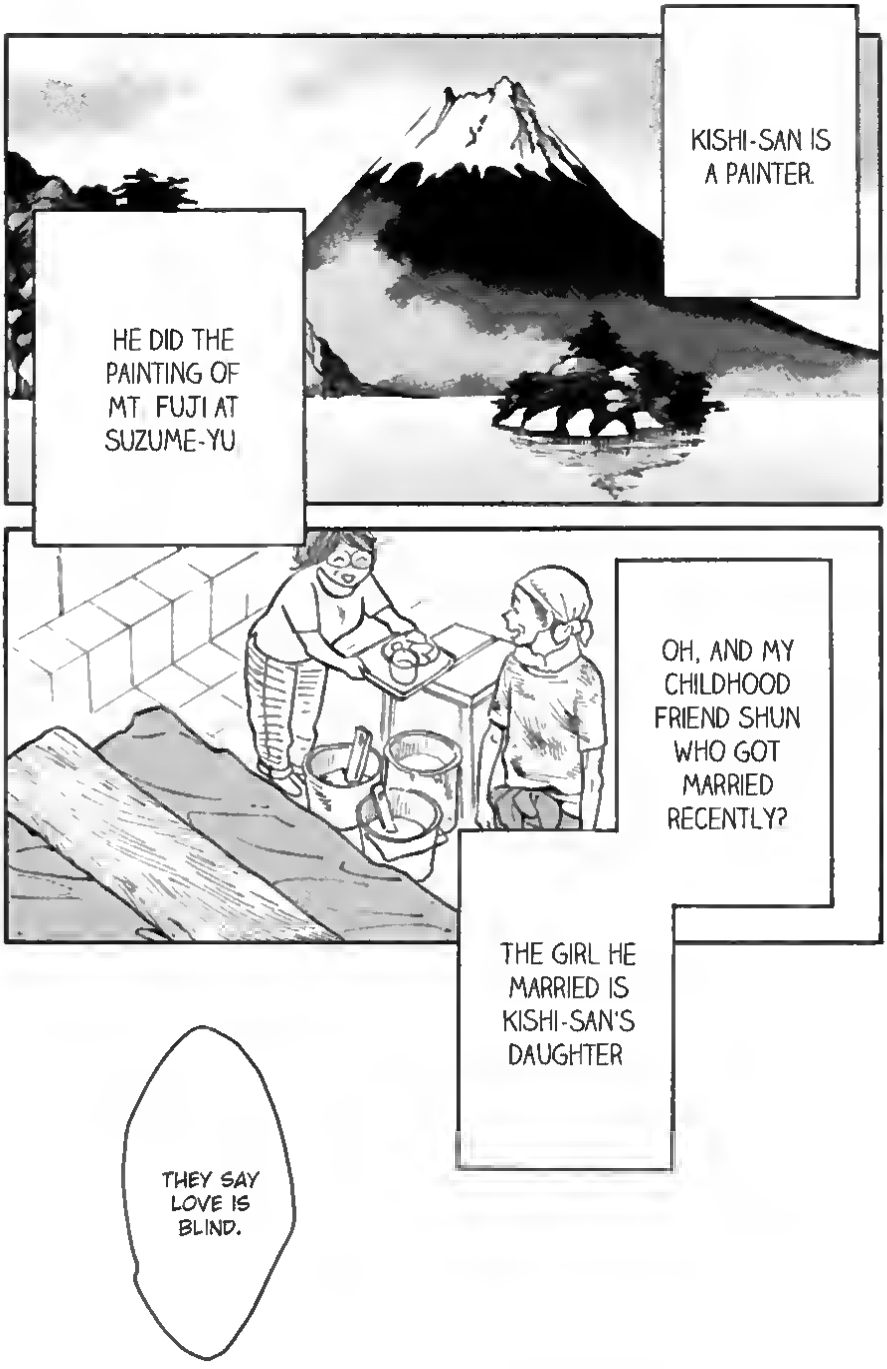


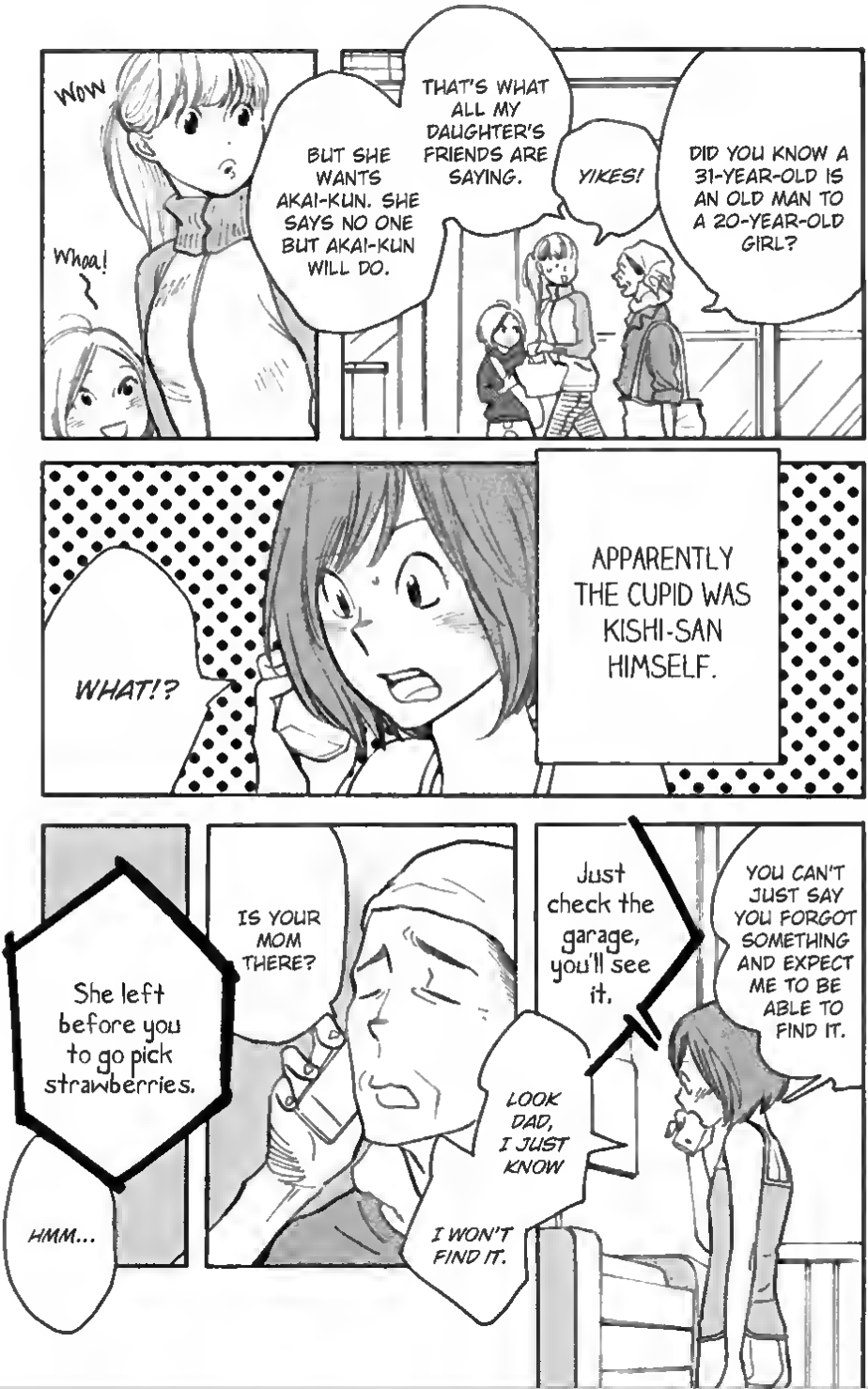
Closed Today

KOTOBUKI-YU BATH

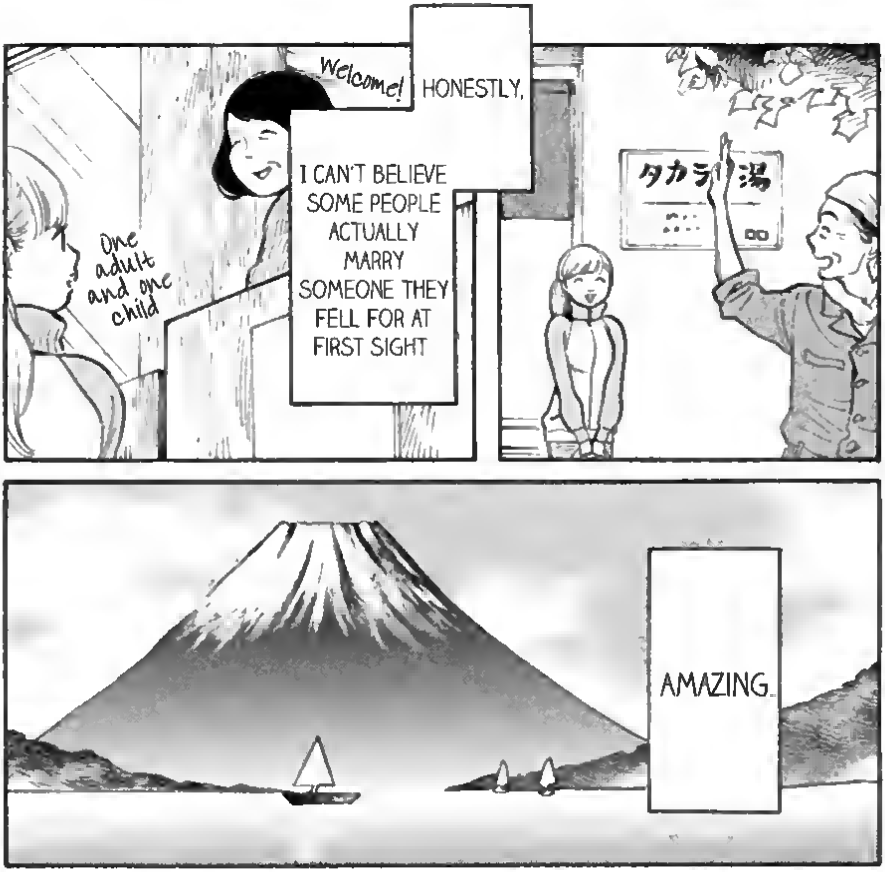





KISHI-SAN IS A PAINTER.
HE DID THE PAINTING OF MT. FUJI AT SUZUME-YU
OH, AND MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND SHUN WHO GOT MARRIED RECENTLY?
THE GIRL HE MARRIED IS KISHI-SAN'S DAUGHTER
THEY SAY LOVE IS BLIND.


Wow
Whoa!
BUT SHE WANTS AKAI-KUN. SHE SAYS NO ONE BUT AKAI-KUN WILL DO.
THAT'S WHAT ALL MY DAUGHTER'S FRIENDS ARE SAYING.
YIKES!
DID YOU KNOW A 31-YEAR-OLD IS AN OLD MAN TO A 20-YEAR-OLD GIRL?
WHAT!?
APPARENTLY THE CUPID WAS KISHI-SAN HIMSELF.
She left before you to go pick strawberries.
HMM...
IS YOUR MOM THERE?
LOOK DAD, I JUST KNOW I WON'T FIND IT.
Just check the garage, you'll see it.
YOU CAN'T JUST SAY YOU FORGOT SOMETHING AND EXPECT ME TO BE ABLE TO FIND IT.

...ALL RIGHT, FINE.
I'LL BRING EVERYTHING I CAN FIND, BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR A TAXI.
Thanks. I love you, Chika-chan.
Hmmmm.
I guess if I head back now and just grab it and go, I could still make it...
I'M EXHAUST-ED...
MAYBE I'LL GET A COFFEE BEFORE HEADING HOME.
AND THEN GETTING INTO A FIGHT.
AFTER GETTING PAINT ON HER HANDS AND CLOTHES
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR CHIKA-CHAN
ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
ding-a-ling
Wel-come!


Welcome!
HONESTLY,
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY MARRY SOMEONE THEY FELL FOR AT FIRST SIGHT
One adult and one child
タカラ湯
AMAZING.
HOW LUCKY.

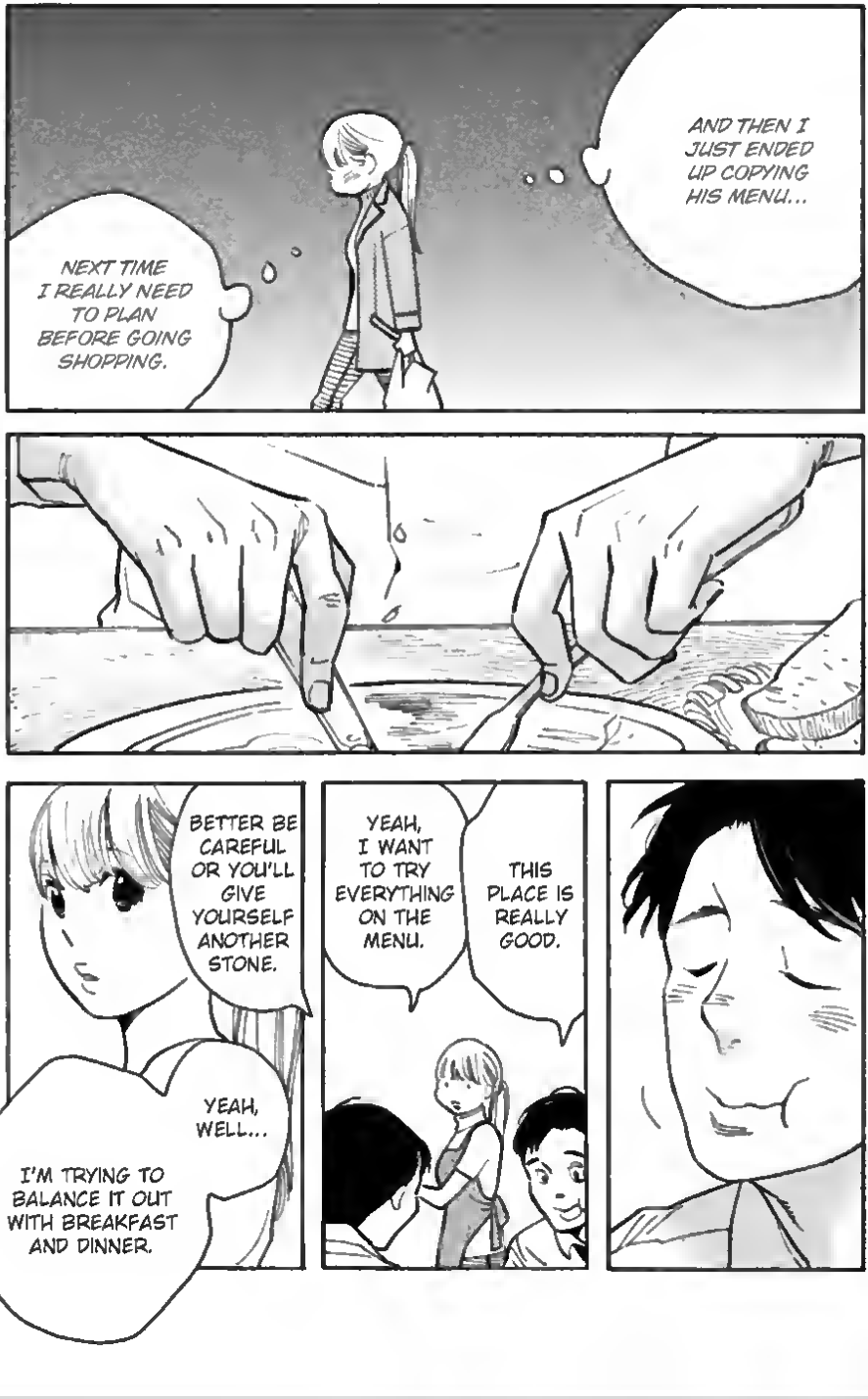
Cafe & Restaurant.
SUMIRE
THIS IS FOR TABLE 3.
GOT IT!
BILL PLEASE.
COMING!
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

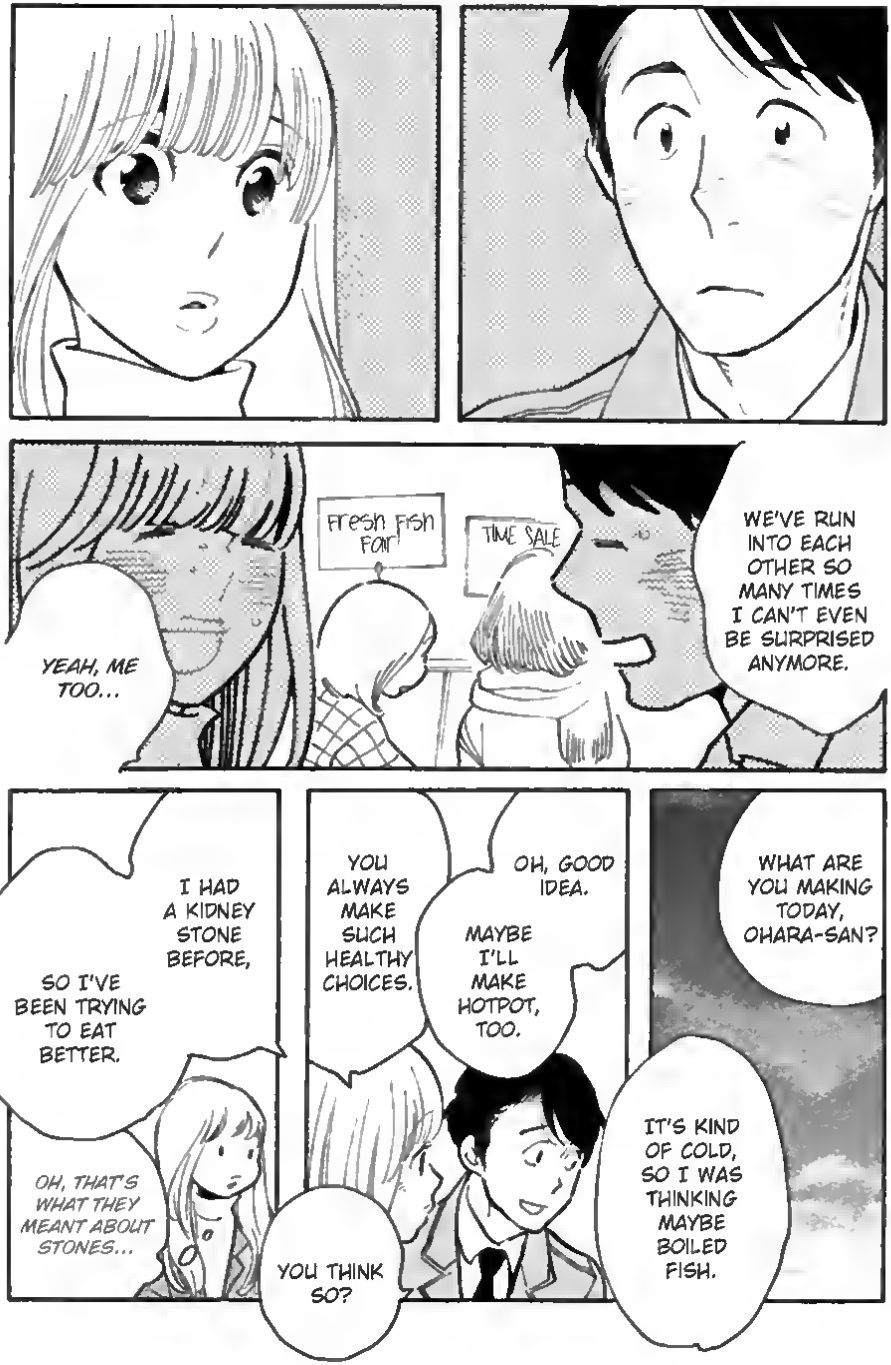
DID WE MISS LUNCHTIME?
ding-a-ling
OH!
NO, THERE'S STILL TIME.
IT WAS DELICIOUS.
PLEASE COME AGAIN.
I USUALLY HAVE LUNCH SOMEWHERE NEAR WORK, BUT ONCE IN A WHILE I LIKE TO STRETCH MY LEGS AND DISCOVER SOMEWHERE NEW.
I SEE...
OH, OHARA-SAN.

He's a college student.
MY NEPHEW IS LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT. DO YOU KNOW ANYWHERE GOOD?
AROUND HERE? I CAN SHOW YOU A FEW PLACES.
WE WILL RE-OPEN AT 5:00 PM
SUMIRE
IS MAME-CHAN'S BUILDING ALL FULL?
IT IS, YEAH.
ALSO THAT'S A WOMEN'S-ONLY BUILDING.
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE? HELP HER FIND A BOYFRIEND, NOT JUST A ROOM.
AAARGH
IT'S NOT A GIRLS' DORM.
YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND OVER.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND SOMEONE THAT WAY?
OH, REALLY?
THERE'S NO RULES LIKE THAT...
...
...

西洋
HMM... HMM...
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE TONIGHT? AND WHAT'S FOR TOMORROW?
I SHOULDN'T GO SHOPPING WITHOUT A PLAN..
MAYBE I CAN LOOK UP SOME RECIPES.
BONK
OH, SORRY!

OHARA-SAN.
I recognized your voice.
KAWADA-SAN.
AHAHA.
SORT OF LIKE MOVING HOME AFTER MY DIVORCE.
I LIVE AROUND HERE NOW, TOO.
I ACTUALLY GREW UP IN THE AREA.
SO DON'T LAUGH WHEN YOU SEE ME AT THE STORE CLUTCHING AN ONION.
WHAT? I THINK IT'S QUITE LOVELY.
LOVE-LY?
What's that supposed to mean?


AND THEN I JUST ENDED UP COPYING HIS MENU...
NEXT TIME I REALLY NEED TO PLAN BEFORE GOING SHOPPING.
THIS PLACE IS REALLY GOOD.
YEAH, I WANT TO TRY EVERYTHING ON THE MENU.
BETTER BE CAREFUL OR YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF ANOTHER STONE.
YEAH, WELL...
I'M TRYING TO BALANCE IT OUT WITH BREAKFAST AND DINNER.


Fresh Fish Fair
TIME SALE
WE'VE RUN INTO EACH OTHER SO MANY TIMES I CAN'T EVEN BE SURPRISED ANYMORE.
YEAH, ME TOO...
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING TODAY, OHARA-SAN?
IT'S KIND OF COLD, SO I WAS THINKING MAYBE BOILED FISH.
OH, GOOD IDEA.
MAYBE I'LL MAKE HOTPOT, TOO.
YOU ALWAYS MAKE SUCH HEALTHY CHOICES.
YOU THINK SO?
I HAD A KIDNEY STONE BEFORE,
SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO EAT BETTER.
OH, THAT'S WHAT THEY MEANT ABOUT STONES...

IT'S IMPORTANT TO EAT RIGHT.
YEAH, I FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY.
UHH...
OH, IT'S GREEN.
UM!
I'M INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REALTOR. WHAT SORT OF QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU NEED?

BUT WITH KAWADA-SAN IT'S DIFFERENT

I COULD HAVE USED MY POSITION AS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND PRETENDED I WAS JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY.

I COULD HAVE ASKED SOU-CHAN EASILY. EVEN KNOWING IT WAS FRUITLESS.

BUT HE BETRAYED ME, TOO...
S-SORRY
SORRY!
THEN KYOICHI RESCUED ME WHEN I WAS DOWN,
I'VE BEEN CHASING AFTER SOU-CHAN FOR SO LONG...
I FEEL LIKE WE SKIPPED OVER THIS AWKWARD STAGE ALTOGETHER
BUT ANYWAY, WE JUST SORT OF PLUNGED IN HEAD FIRST.
BUT WITH KAWADA-SAN IT'S DIFFERENT.

OH,
BOOKS
本
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO STOP IN, OHARA-SAN?
BUT I KEEP RUNNING INTO HIM AT THE STORE...
AS A TOTAL NEWBIE, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY START WITH THIS ONE.
I GUESS I'LL JUST START WITH THESE.
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THESE NOTES, TOO.
THEY WERE MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S.
ARE YOU SURE?
AND STUDYING THIS COLLECTION OF OLD EXAM QUESTIONS CAN REALLY BOOST YOUR SCORE.
IT ALL SOUNDS SO DIFFICULT...

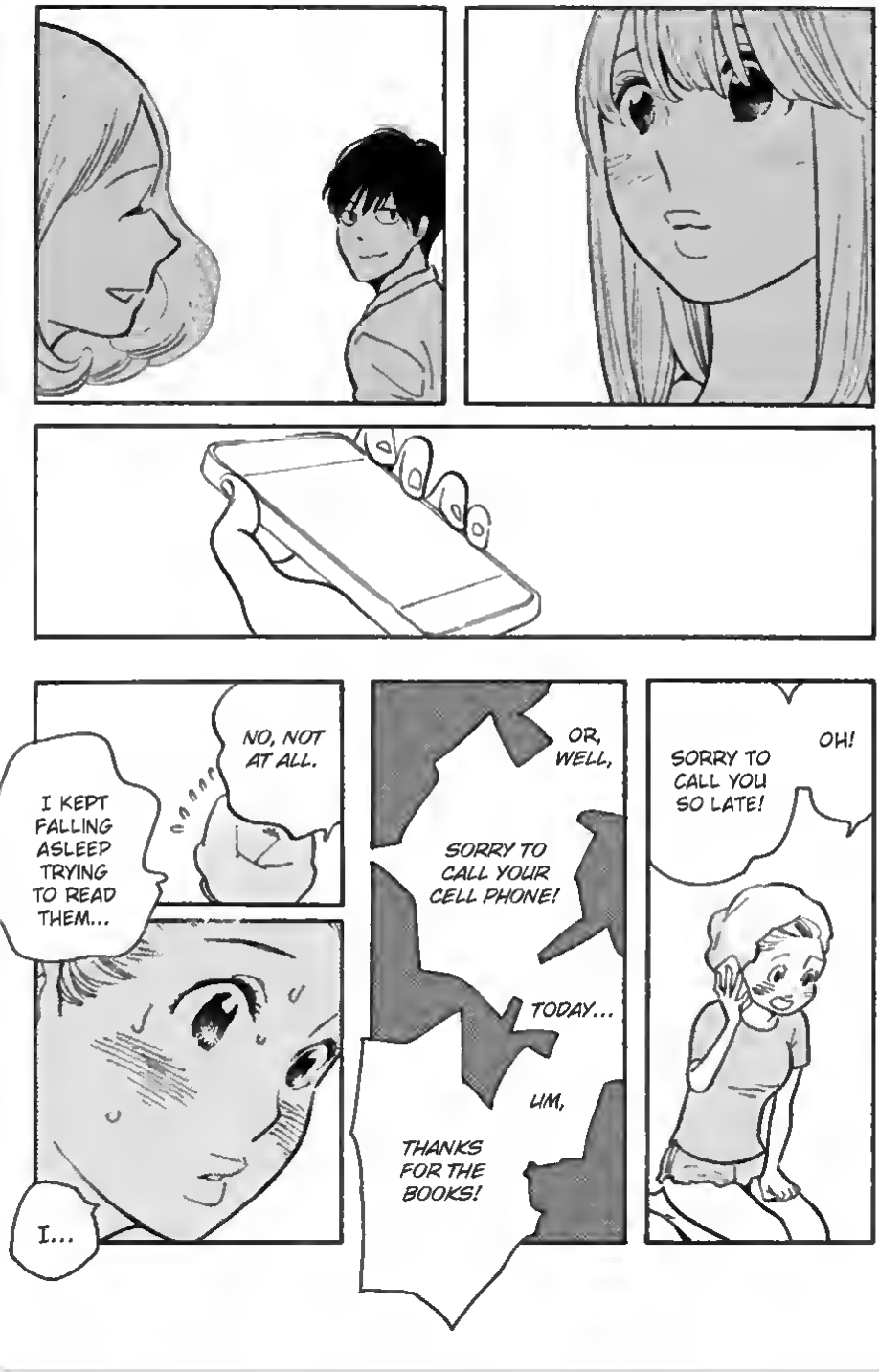
HE STILL MANAGED TO FAIL AFTER ALL THAT, SO THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHETHER YOU REALLY WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THIS OR NOT.
Yikes!
MAYBE I'LL TAKE A BATH...
GASP!
I FELL ASLEEP AGAIN.
I CAN DO THIS.
AFTER ALL, I'M USED TO REJECTION.
AND KAWADA-SAN'S DAY OFF, TOO.
BREAK ROOM
TOMORROW'S MY DAY OFF.
glug
glug
glug

I LOVED SOU-CHAN.
I KEPT LOVING HIM EVEN KNOWING HE'D NEVER BE MINE.
BUT ISN'T THAT JUST BECAUSE I NEVER FELT I HAD A REAL CHANCE?
HE WAS HARU-SAN'S.
WOULDN'T EVER LOVE ME BACK,
BUT HE WOULDN'T LOVE ANYONE ELSE, EITHER
SOU-CHAN...

HE WOULD NEVER BETRAY HER.

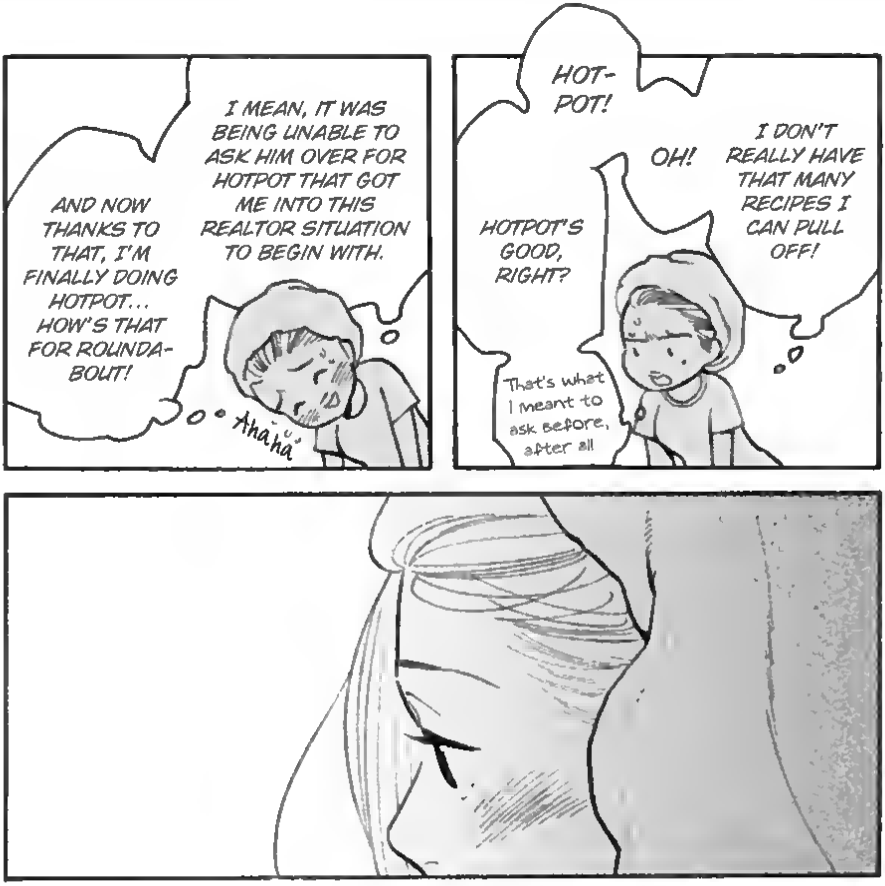
AND MY SISTER WAS FAR AWAY IN BRAZIL.

IT WAS LIKE MY CRUSH WAS JUST STEEPING IN LUKEWARM WATER.


I...
I KEPT FALLING ASLEEP TRYING TO READ THEM...
NO, NOT AT ALL.
THANKS FOR THE BOOKS!
UM,
TODAY...
SORRY TO CALL YOUR CELL PHONE!
OR, WELL,
SORRY TO CALL YOU SO LATE!
OH!

WOULD
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER SOMETIME?
IT'LL BE MY TREAT AS A THANK YOU FOR THE BOOKS.

YOU WERE VERY BRAVE!
GOOD JOB, MAME!
ENDED UP COMING ACROSS AS "I'LL MAKE DINNER FOR YOU".
THOUGH FOR SOME REASON THE COMBINATION OF "DINNER", "TOGETHER", AND "TREAT"
I FEEL LIKE I'D JUST GONE FROM KID TO ADULT IN AN INSTANT
HOMEMADE, THOUGH...
A GROWN MAN IS COMING TO MY HOUSE WITH CAKE.
WOW.
Shall I bring a cake?


I MEAN, IT WAS BEING UNABLE TO ASK HIM OVER FOR HOTPOT THAT GOT ME INTO THIS REALTOR SITUATION TO BEGIN WITH.
AND NOW THANKS TO THAT, I'M FINALLY DOING HOTPOT... HOW'S THAT FOR ROUNDA-BOUT!
Aha ha
HOT-POT!
OH!
I DON'T REALLY HAVE THAT MANY RECIPES I CAN PULL OFF!
HOTPOT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
That's what I meant to ask before, after all

THIS IS ALL SO NEW TO ME.

IT'S A WEIRD SORT OF DISTANCE
HE'S NOT FAMILY OR A RELATIVE OR A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
MY HEART IS RACING.
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...

こいいじ

Ch 9 Out of Africa

rattle
rattle
...
...
YEAH... I'D LIKE TO SQUEEZE 'EM JUST ONCE...
OHARA'S TITS ARE AMAZING.
I PUT THE BALLS AWAY.
THANKS!
YEAH, SERIOUSLY.
YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL, SERIOUSLY.
THE BOYS ARE AFTER YOUR BOOBS, MAME.
Yikes!

SHIT, I WISH YOU'D CARRY ME!
I TOTALLY COULD.
REALLY?
DON'T WORRY. I'M TALL, AFTER ALL.
I COULD PICK UP ANY OF THOSE BOYS AND CARRY THEM.
Really!?
Ha Ha Ha!
NO WAY!
THE GIRLS ARE IN HEAT!
DO MEEEEE!
Yikes!
IF SHUNTA-KUN WAS ANOTHER 10 CM TALLER, THE TWO OF THEM WOULD BE A PERFECT COUPLE.
Poor guy!
Ha Ha Ha!
SHUT UP!
NO WAY.
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY, YOU'VE KNOWN HER SINCE YOU WERE KIDS.
I BET YOU'VE SEEN HER NAKED, EH?

HAHA, THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK.
I TOOK THIS PICTURE.
YOU DID?
HOW COULD YOU FORGET?
MAME WAS BIGGER THAN BOTH OF YOU BACK THEN.
YEAH, I WAS KINDA ON THE SCRAWNY SIDE, TOO.

OH!
SHIT, WHAT'S THAT DOING IN HERE?
HUH? WHEN WAS THIS TAKEN?
WHEN WE WERE ABOUT 20.
I TOOK IT AS A MEMENTO OR SOMETHING.
YOU DID?
YEAH.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS PHOTO?
WELL, WE WERE DATING BACK THEN.
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
HERE, YOU GIVE IT BACK TO HER.

YOU AND MAME DATED?
HUH? I NEVER TOLD YOU?
This is the first I've heard of it
AND PLEASE DON'T TELL KAYO-CHAN I HAD THIS PHOTO.
...ER, THAT'S NOT, I MEAN...
BACK THEN SHE'D JUST BEEN DUMPED OR SOMETHING.
I GUESS I NEVER DID.
It's not something I'd just bring up out of the blue, after all
WELL, THAT'S SORT OF...
...HUH?
SO THEN WHY'D YOU BREAK UP?
SHE NEVER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS MYSELF.

OH, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING IT OVER.
Hello
Whew!
WHAT!?
WHY YOU...!
I ACTUALLY, UH...CHEATED ON HER...?
SO HERE'S THE COFFEE POT YOU WANTED TO BORROW.
THANK YOU.
I see, I see
CLASS IS ALMOST OVER, SO I FIGURED SINCE I HAD TO PICK UP YU ANYWAY ...
THIS WAS NOT LONG BEFORE YU WAS BORN.

SUMMER FESTIVAL, WASN'T IT?
EVERYONE CAME TO THE TEMPLE TO SIT AND REST.
OH, RIGHT.
I FOUND THIS WHILE TIDYING THE BACK ROOM.
WHEN WAS THIS TAKEN?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE.
BUT AT LEAST NOW YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER PICTURE OF HER...
THANK YOU.

Thank you!
OH, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DONE.
HEYYY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE, SOUTA-KUN?
I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.
HOORAY!
I'LL BE BY TOMORROW TO PICK UP THE POT.
THANKS AGAIN.
BYE, GRANDPA!
TAKE CARE NOW.
OH.
I'VE GOT THAT ONE OF MAME, TOO.
WHAT!? NO WAY! LEMME SEE!
HE GAVE ME A PHOTO OF HARU-SAN.
WHEN WE GET HOME.

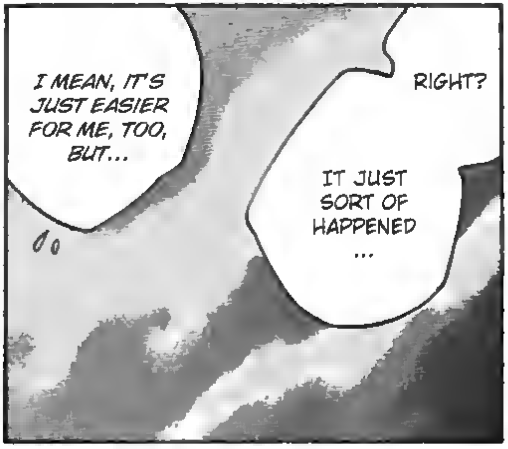
MAME.
WHEN SHE WAS ZO...
IT'D BE WEIRD TO GIVE IT TO HER MYSELF. I'LL HAVE YU TAKE IT OVER...
Look at that huge dog
I SEE. SO AFTER THAT, HER AND KYOICHI...
AND THEN.
THAT HAPPENED.
GETTING MARRIED
I'M

DAMN YOU, KYOICHI...
whirrrrrr
I'M BACK!
WELCOME BACK!
Whew, it's cold
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO MAKE TEA.
OH, GOOD TIMING.

HUH?
YOU SEEM HAPPY, KAWADA-SAN
YOU DID, YOU DID.
Right?
WAIT, WHAT? DID I REALLY HAVE THAT SORT OF LOOK ON MY FACE?
HUH?
HUH?
LUCKY DOG, YOU GOT A DATE AFTER WORK?
YOU BET IT IS.
IT WAS SO HARD TO WATCH YOU RIGHT AFTER YOUR DIVORCE.
SO IT'S A RELIEF TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, RIGHT, TAGUCHI-KUN?

WELL, SHIT.
IF I REALLY LOOKED LIKE THAT, THEN...
I LOOKED LIKE THAT?
SERIOUSLY?
OH, NO, NOW'S FINE. I JUST GOT HOME.
HELLO? THIS IS OHARA. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
Bzzzz
KAWADA-san
I...
TONIGHT?
HUH?
YES!
RIGHT.

Sazuhiro


I MEAN, IT'S JUST EASIER FOR ME, TOO, BUT...
RIGHT?
IT JUST SORT OF HAPPENED ...

INVITING MYSELF OVER LIKE THAT...
IT'S MIXING BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT MY POSITION AT ALL.
I'M REALLY SORRY.

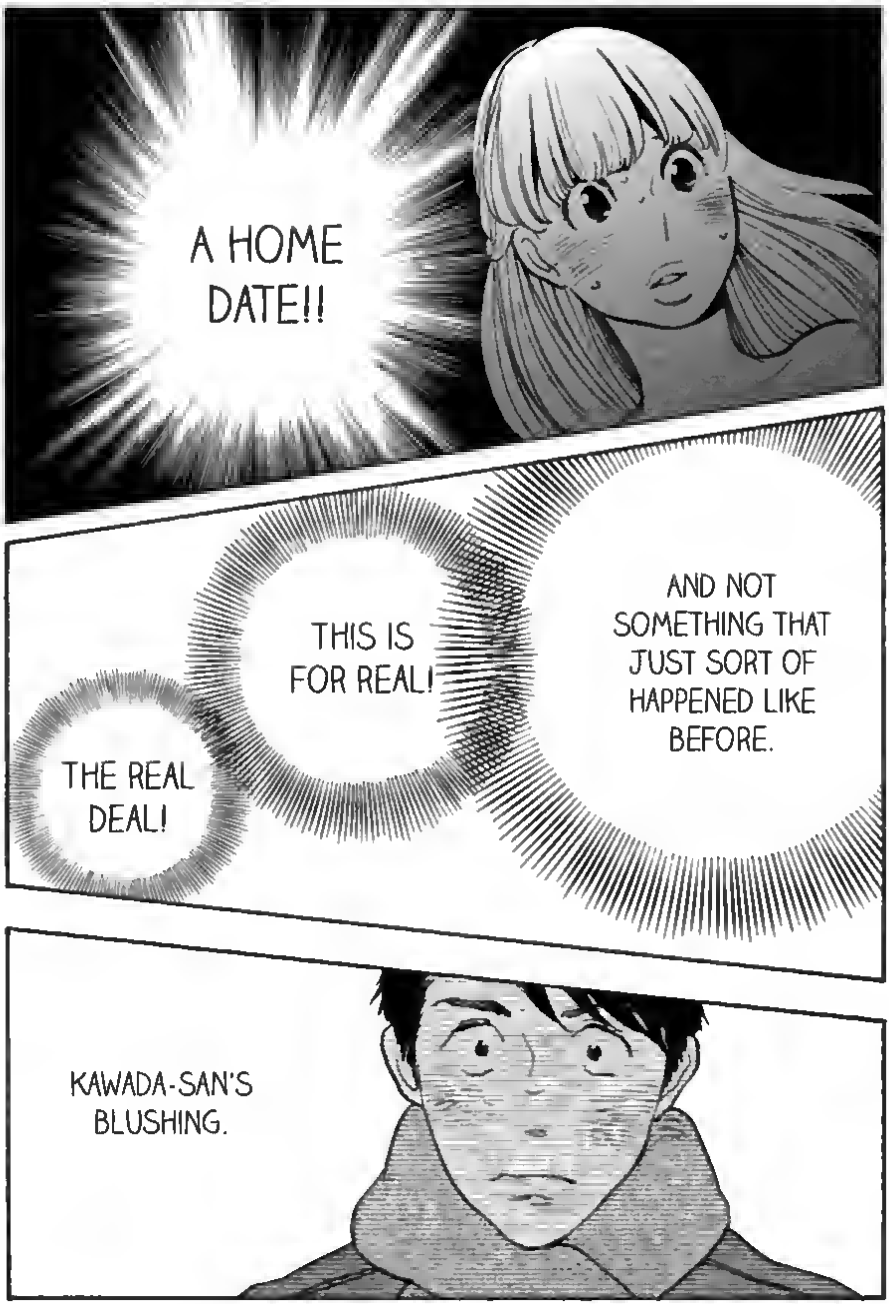
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO KIND AND CONSIDERATE, KAWADA-SAN...

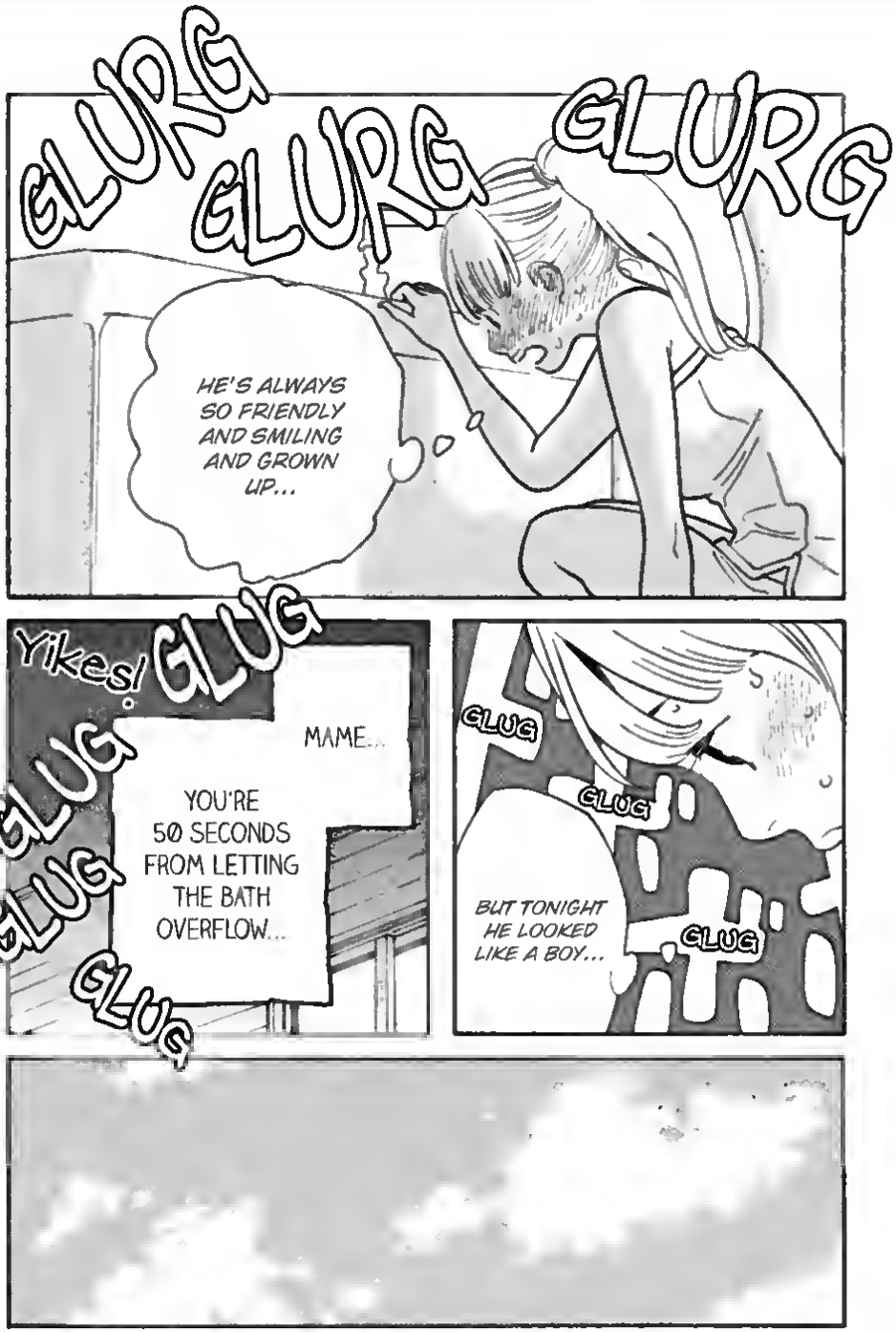
YEAH, YOU, TOO...

BUT YOU'RE JUST SO EASY TO TALK TO, OHARA-SAN.

WE SHOULD GO OUT FOR DINNER AGAIN SOMETIME.
ABSO-LUTELY! I'D LOVE TO.
WELL, I GUESS I HAVEN'T LEARNED MY LESSON AT ALL.
WELL, A LANDLORD'S DIFFERENT THAN A TENANT.
BUT THE LANDLORD'S ALWAYS SAYING HOW MUCH SHE LIKES HAVING YOU OVER FOR TEA.

SORRY.
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I BROUGHT CAKE OVER AFTER ALL?
I'D...
I'D LOVE IT.


A HOME DATE!!
THE REAL DEAL!
THIS IS FOR REAL!
AND NOT SOMETHING THAT JUST SORT OF HAPPENED LIKE BEFORE.
KAWADA-SAN'S BLUSHING.

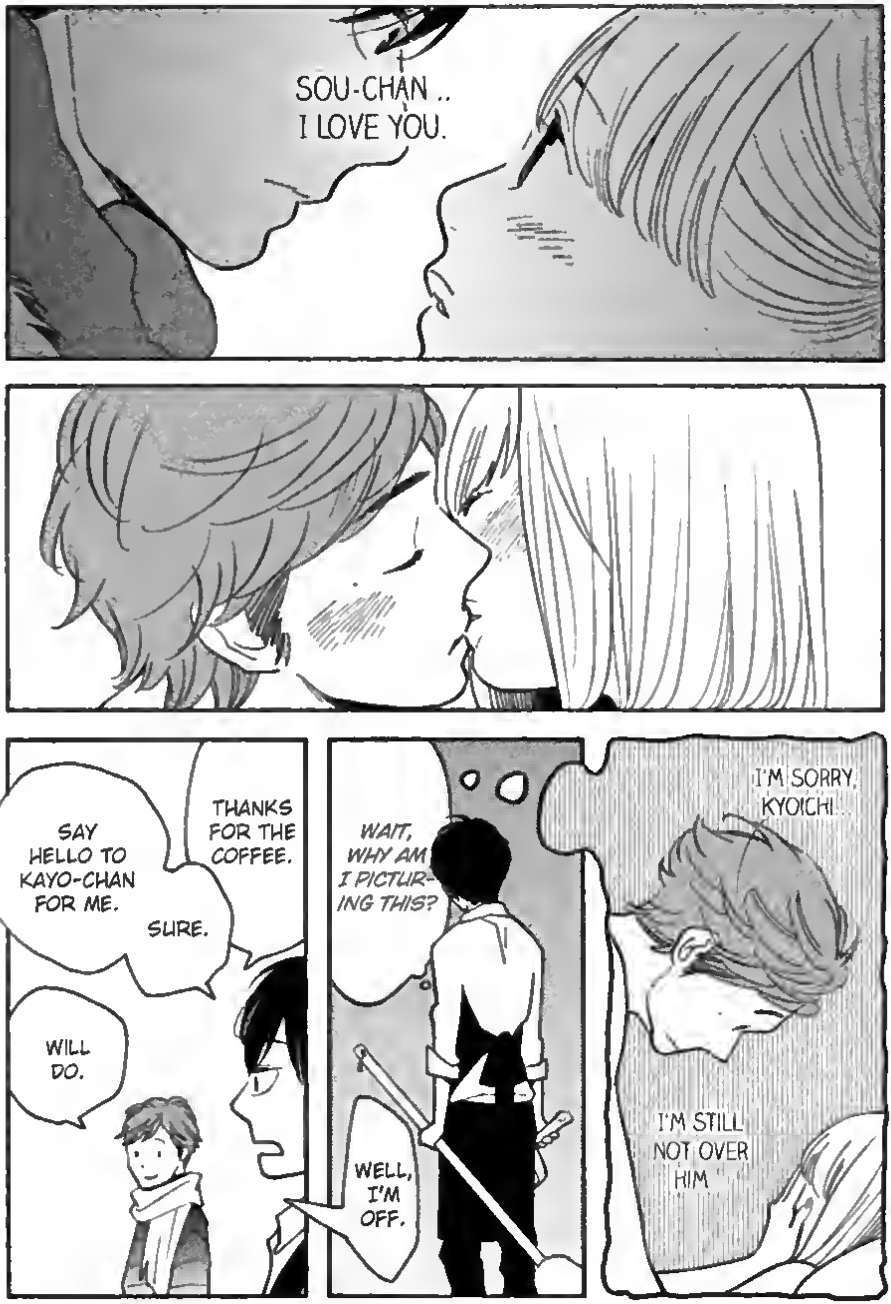

GLURG
GLURG
GLURG
HE'S ALWAYS SO FRIENDLY AND SMILING AND GROWN UP...
Yikes!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
MAME...
YOU'RE 50 SECONDS FROM LETTING THE BATH OVERFLOW...
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
BUT TONIGHT HE LOOKED LIKE A BOY...

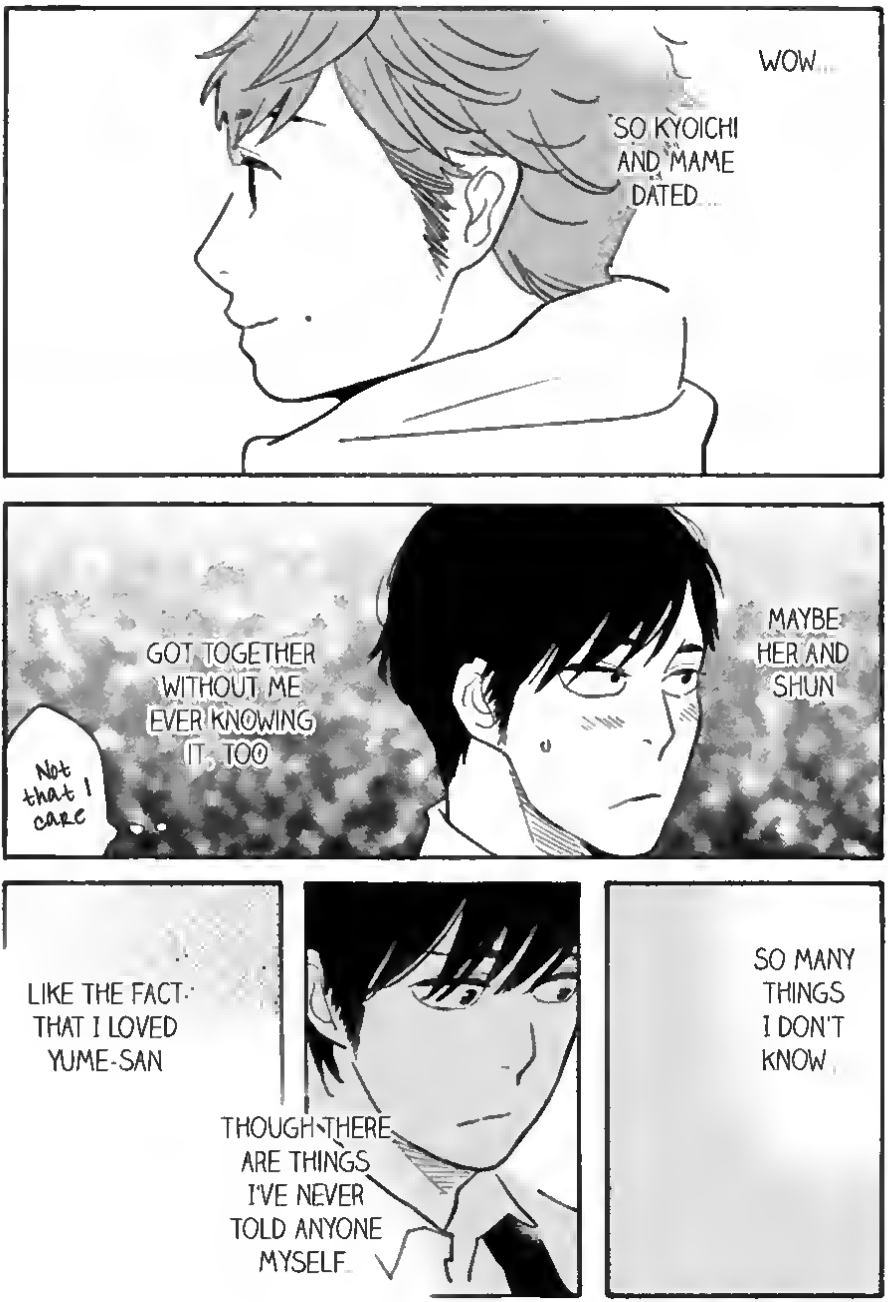
ding-a-ling
I BROUGHT YOUR POT BACK.
THANKS.
WELCO--
OH, IT'S YOU.
YEAH, WELL.
I'LL HAVE THE BLEND.
DO PRIESTS GET THE DAY OFF TODAY?
I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER.
HMM?
SOUTA.

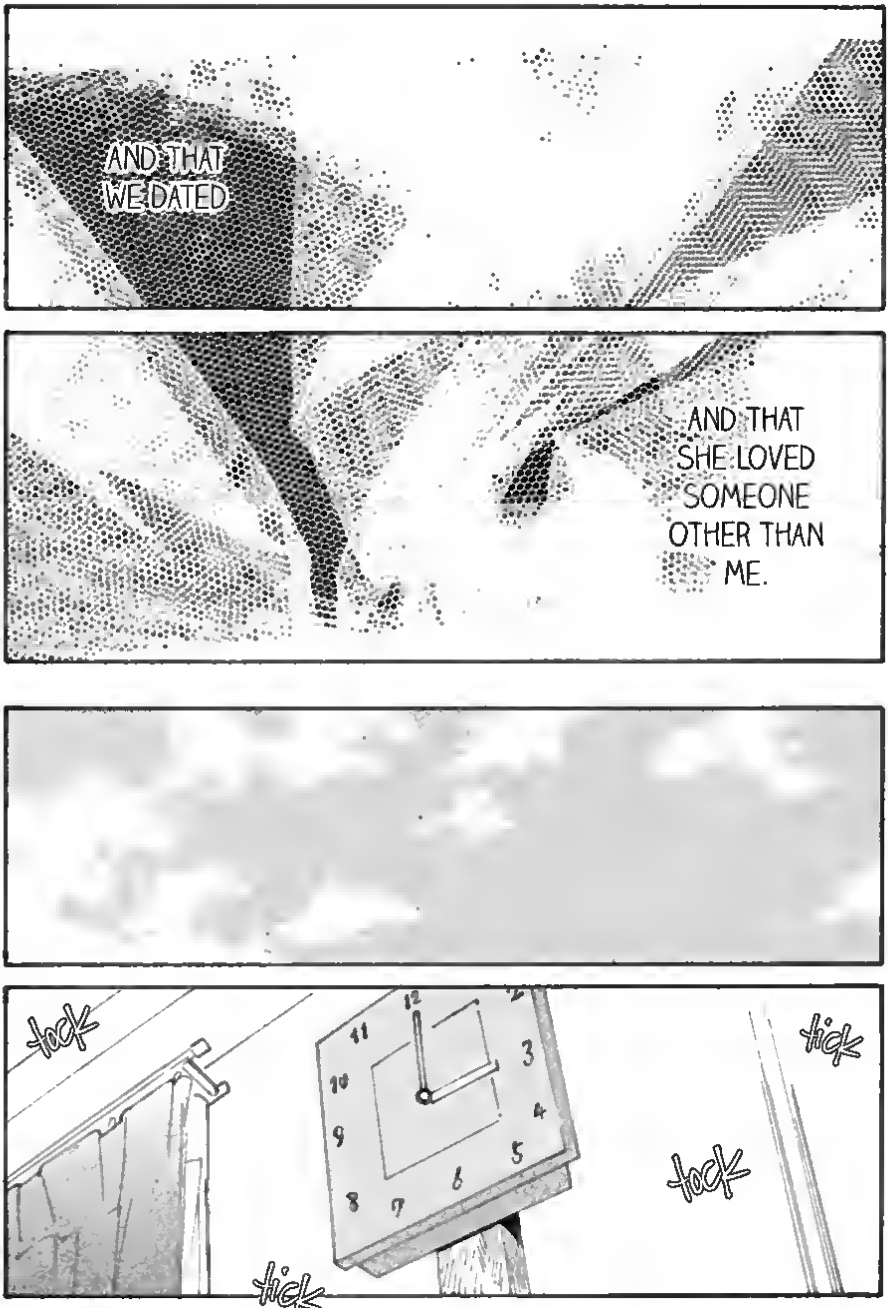
...WHO'S THE GIRL?
KAYO-CHAN, OF COURSE, JEEZ.
BUT, WELL...
I WANTED TO TELL YOU YESTERDAY, BUT I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT, SO I NEVER GOT AROUND TO IT...
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.
THAT'S GREAT.
YEAH... SHE REALLY WANTED THIS.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN TOGETHER?
5 YEARS.

I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN. AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT KAYO-CHAN TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
GAH, I'LL BE HEARING ABOUT THAT AS LONG AS I LIVE.
UNLIKE WITH MAME...
THANKS ...
YOU'D BETTER NOT MAKE HER CRY.
I WON'T.
BUT I WAS YOUNG, AND...
I KNOW I TREATED MAME PRETTY BADLY.
WELL, SHE NEVER LET ME GO ALL THE WAY.
WE'D GET SO CLOSE AND THEN SHE'D SAY IT HURT AND SHE COULDN'T DO IT.

WHO ASKED YOU TO GO INTO THAT SORT OF DETAIL!?
you're about to become a father!
I GUESS I WASN'T VERY GENTLE.
BESIDES, SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE STILL LOVED THE GUY WHO REJECTED HER.
THINK ABOUT POOR MAME!
HEY, WHAT DID I JUST SAY!?
MAYBE SHE COULD NEVER GIVE HERSELF FULLY TO ME, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.


SOU-CHAN ..
I LOVE YOU.
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.
SURE.
SAY HELLO TO KAYO-CHAN FOR ME.
WILL DO.
WAIT, WHY AM I PICTURING THIS?
WELL, I'M OFF.
I'M SORRY, KYOICHI...
I'M STILL NOT OVER HIM


WOW...
SO KYOICHI AND MAME DATED...
MAYBE HER AND SHUN
GOT TOGETHER WITHOUT ME EVER KNOWING IT, TOO
Not that I care
LIKE THE FACT THAT I LOVED YUME-SAN
THOUGH THERE ARE THINGS I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE MYSELF...
SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW


AND THAT WE DATED
AND THAT SHE LOVED SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME.
tick
tick
tick
tick

tick
tick
tock
clack
COM-
ING!
WHOA!
He's
here!
ding dong~...
SORRY,
AM I
EARLY?
NOT AT
ALL!

THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.
I'LL GET EVERYTHING READY, YOU JUST HAVE A SEAT.
HAHAHA, GOOD.
HERE'S THE CAKE.
YOU'RE JUST ON TIME.
As usual!!!
WHOOO!
I COULD SMELL CURRY FROM OUTSIDE.
WOW, REALLY?

EASY...
IT'S SO
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MY HEART RACES
WHEN I'M WITH HIM
IT'S SO EASY...
BUT...

MY STOMACH REALLY HURTS RIGHT NOW...
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER, OHARA-SAN?
KAWADA-SAN I'VE REALLY HAD A LOT OF FUN TONIGHT
AND THE CAKE WAS DELICIOUS.
I WANT TO KEEP CHATTING.
AND HAVE ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE.
BUT, UHH...
COULD WE CALL IT A NIGHT?

A-ARE YOU OK?
SHOULD I CALL AN AMBULANCE?
WOULD A CAB BE FASTER?
I...
MY STOMACH REALLY, REALLY HURTS...
WHAT!?
I'M FINE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT'S JUST, CURRY GIVES ME DIARRHEA.
SO, OBVIOUSLY, I SHOULD JUST NOT EAT CURRY.
BUT IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE DISHES...
A-ALL RIGHT, JUST--
But you don't have to keep talking
No wonder
WHEN I LIVED AT HOME, I WAS ALWAYS IN CHARGE OF THE CURRY.
IT WAS DELICIOUS.

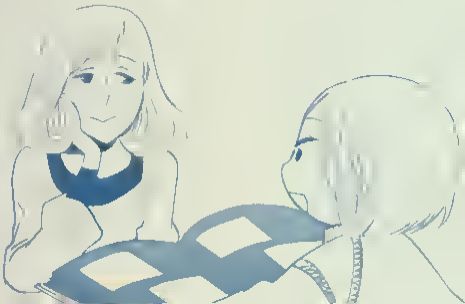
IF YOU EVER DO HAVE UNBEARABLE STOMACH PAIN, JUST GIVE ME A CALL.
I'LL DROP EVERY-THING!
OH, BUT ONE THING...
Go lock yourself in the bathroom, right now!
NO, NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE GOING NOW.
SORRY THE CONVERSATION HAS TAKEN SUCH A CRUDE TURN...
And right after we've eaten
rumble rumble
I...
clack-
AND...
I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH HOT POT...

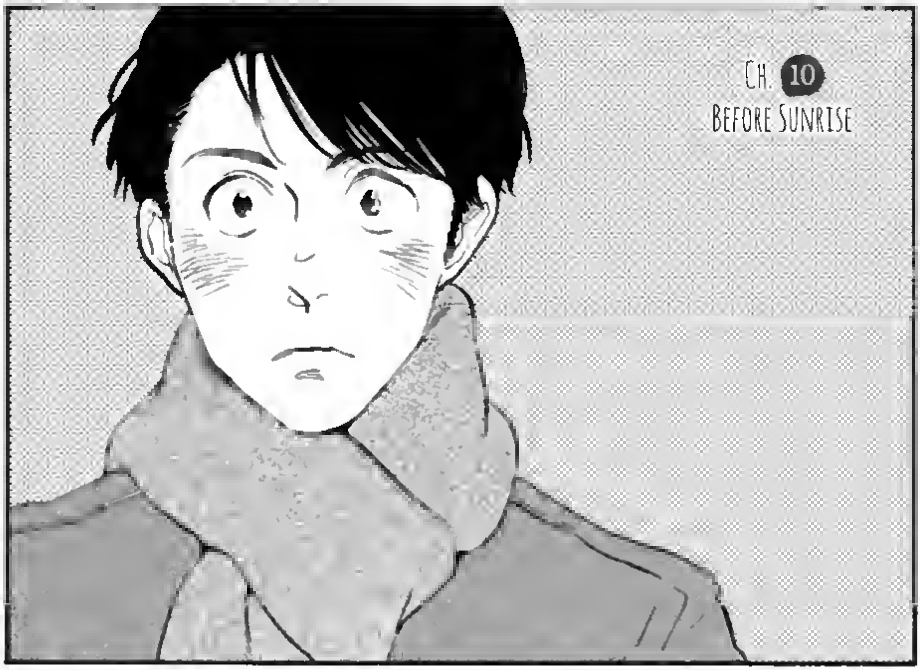
I WANT TO DIE!
OTHERWISE...
AND IT WAS SUCH A PROMISING NIGHT
AAAAAH...
CRAP! I SHOULD HAVE SAID IT WAS MENSTRUAL CRAMPS...
BUT THEN, ONE DAY
ding dong~
I WAS SO EMBARRASSED I COULDN'T ANSWER ANY OF HIS CALLS OR EMAILS
HE SHOWED UP ON MY DOORSTEP
...

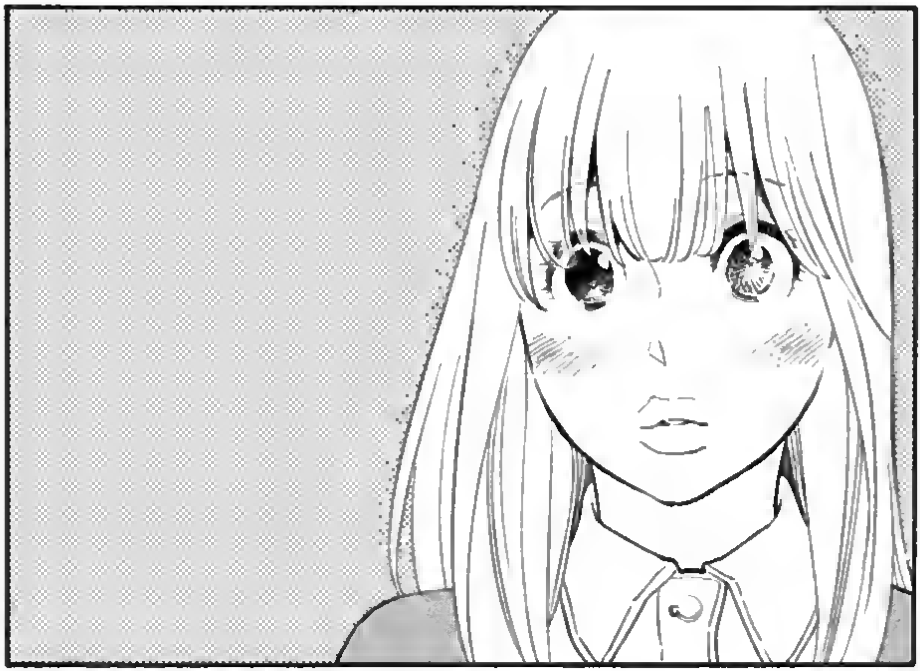
こいしい

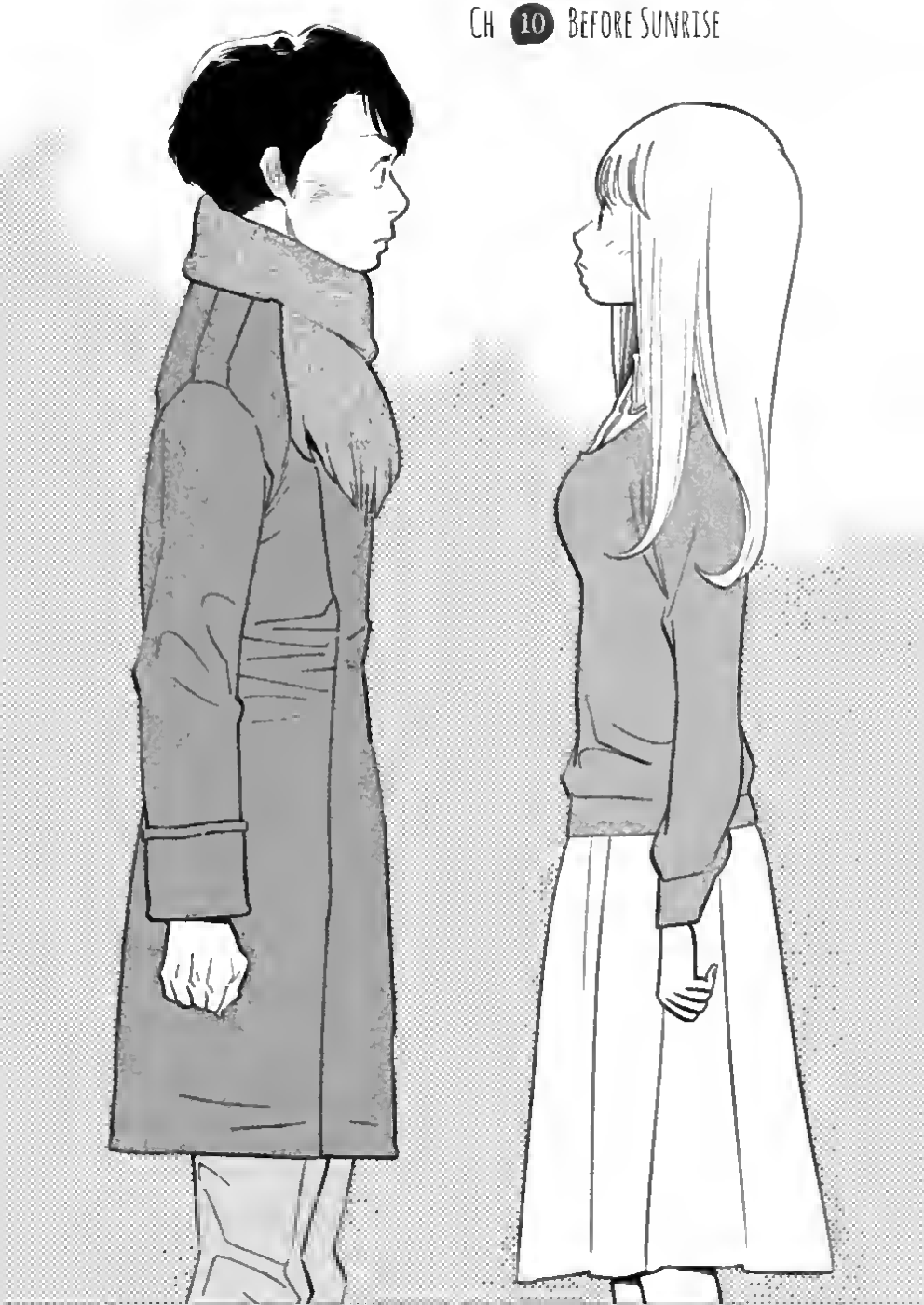
CH 10

By Shimura Takako



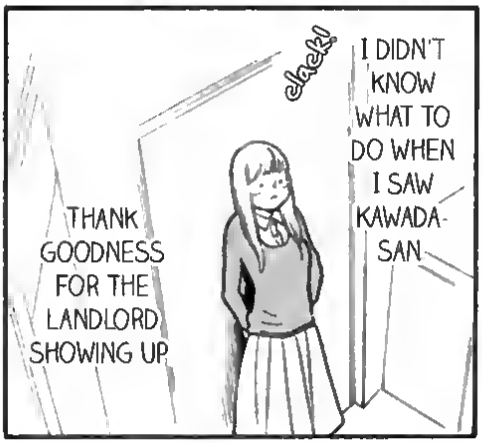

Ch. 10
Before Sunrise

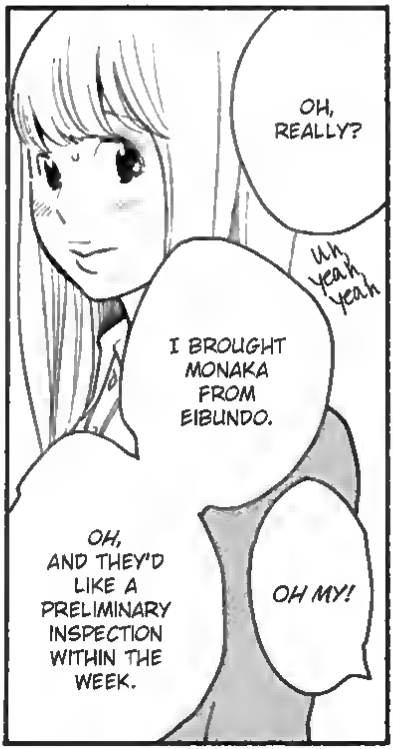


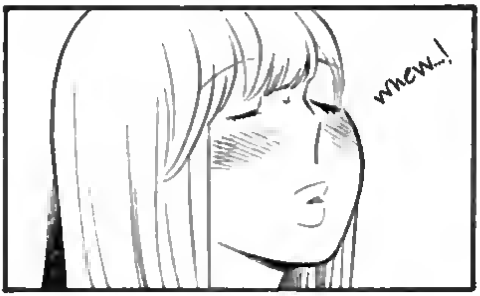


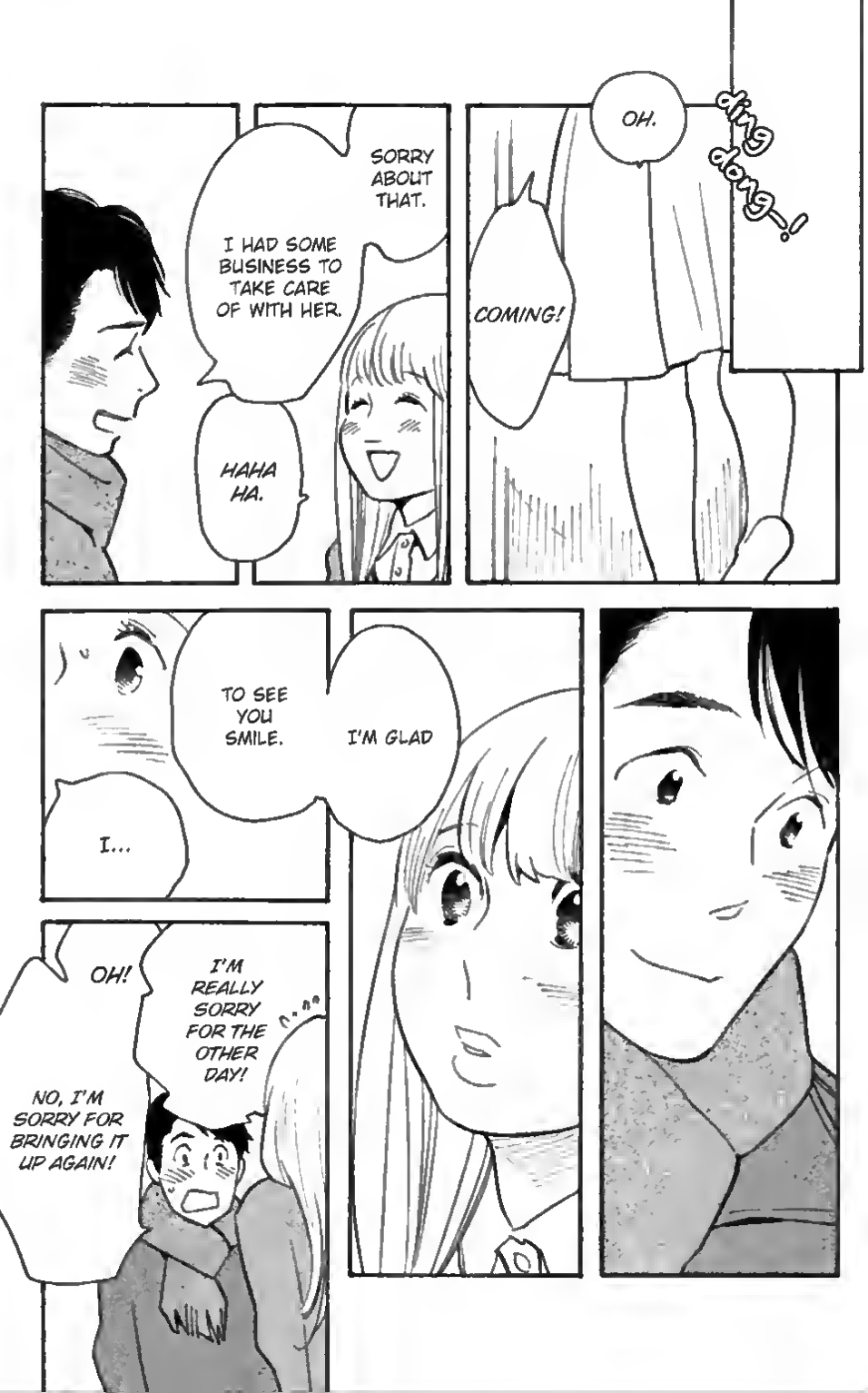
OH, KAWADA-SAN.
OH!
ASAGAYA-SAN.
LONG TIME, NO SEE!
LONG TIME ...?
OH YEAH... I SAW YOU JUST TWO DAYS AGO, DIDN'T I!
Haha!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

I'M HERE ABOUT THE GREEN HILLS CONTRACT.
NO, NO, NO, NO!
...OH!
Am I interrupting?


I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN I SAW KAWADA-SAN
click!
THANK GOODNESS FOR THE LANDLORD SHOWING UP.

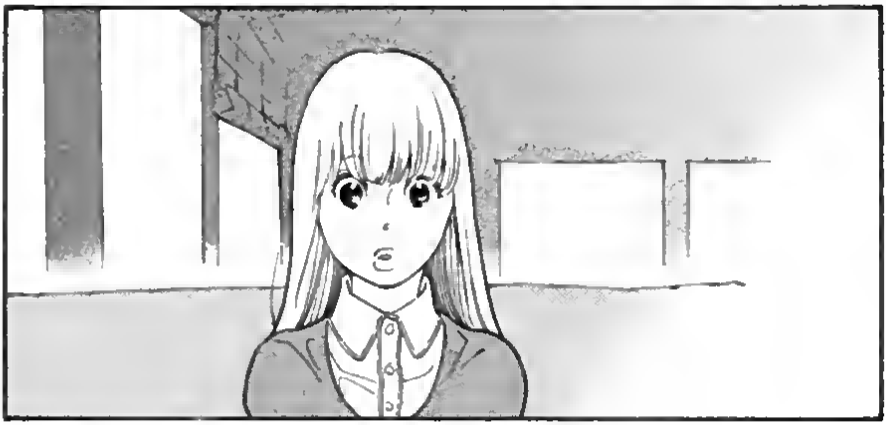

OH, REALLY?
uh, yeah, yeah
I BROUGHT MONAKA FROM EIBUNDO.
OH MY!
OH, AND THEY'D LIKE A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION WITHIN THE WEEK.

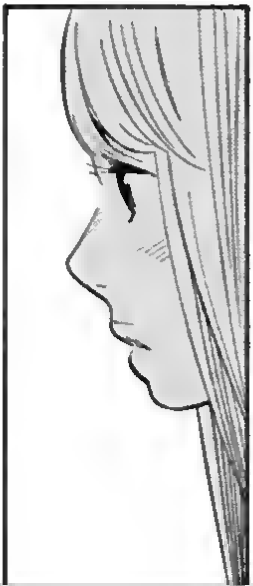

whew..!

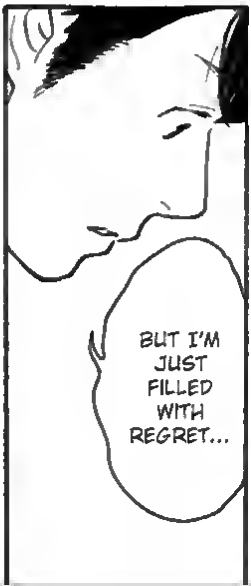

ding dong-!
OH.
COMING!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I HAD SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF WITH HER.
HAHA HA.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU SMILE.
I...
OH!
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY!
NO, I'M SORRY FOR BRINGING IT UP AGAIN!

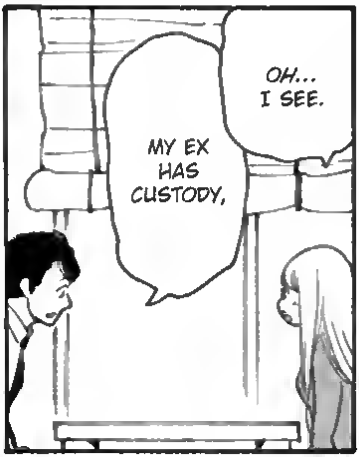
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO A MOVIE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME?
I ACTUALLY STOPPED BY THE RESTAURANT FIRST.
I'D FORGOTTEN IT WAS YOUR DAY OFF.
CINE
SOMEHOW I TOTALLY FORGOT WE HAD THE SAME SCHEDULE.

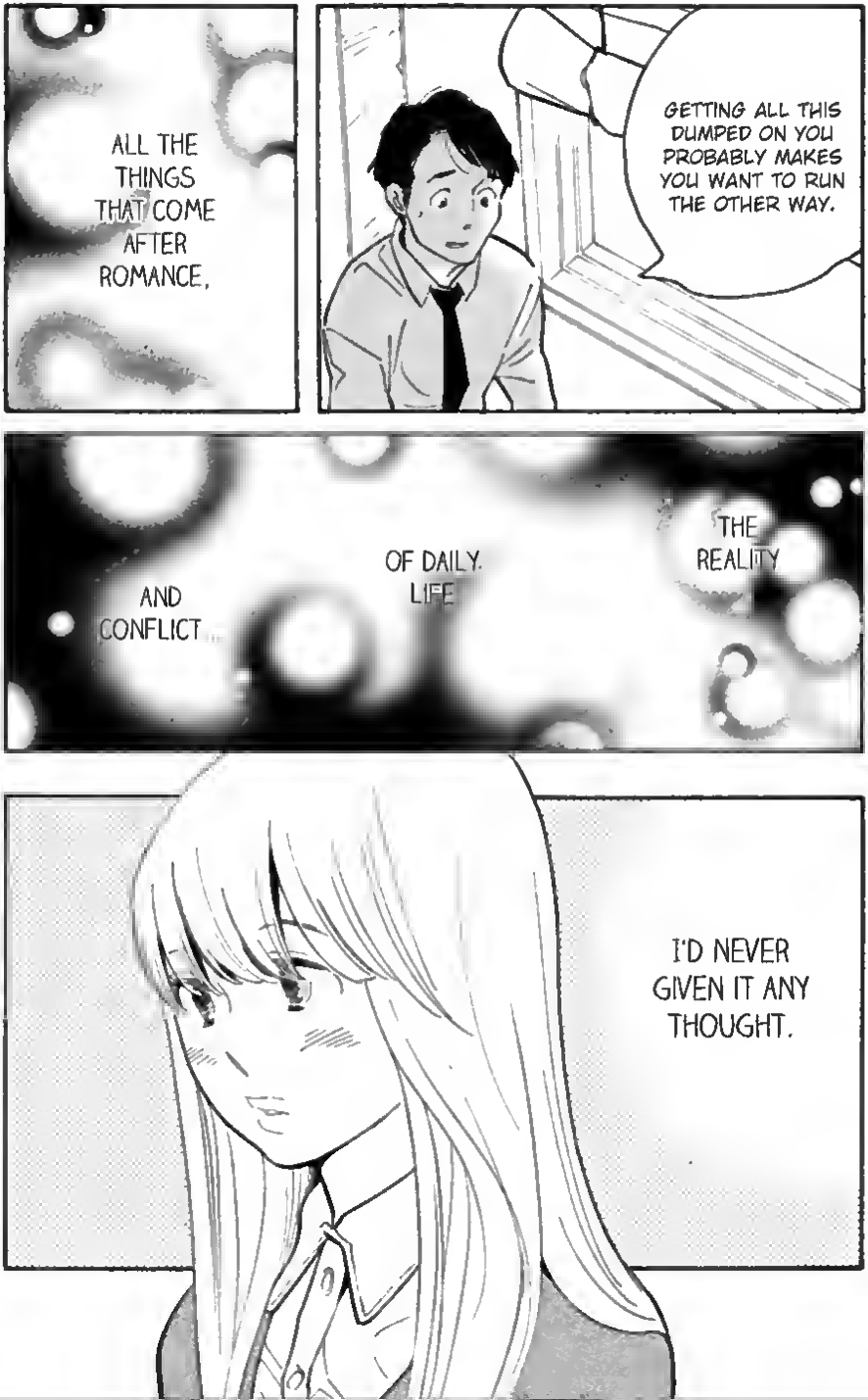
I...
HAVE A KID.






BUT I'M JUST FILLED WITH REGRET...

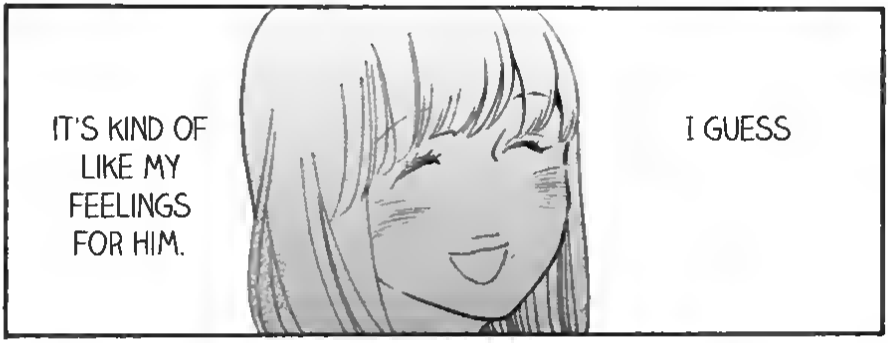

OH... I SEE.
MY EX HAS CUSTODY,

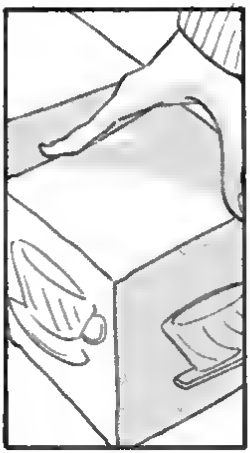

ALL THE THINGS THAT COME AFTER ROMANCE,
GETTING ALL THIS DUMPED ON YOU PROBABLY MAKES YOU WANT TO RUN THE OTHER WAY.
THE REALITY OF DAILY LIFE AND CONFLICT...
I'D NEVER GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT.

MAME-CHAN!
Hey!
WOW, YOU CAME ON YOUR OWN.
OF COURSE I DID! THERE'S ONLY ONE TRANSFER.
OH, HERE.
I BROUGHT COFFEE.
WOW, THANKS!
OH, BUT I DON'T HAVE A COFFEE MAKER YET.
WHAT!?
LET'S GO BUY ONE NOW.
PALCO

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, AUNTIE ALWAYS USED TO DO IT, DIDN'T SHE.
I DUNNO...
I CAN NEVER GET IT QUITE RIGHT WHEN I MAKE MY OWN.
OH YEAH?
I CAN'T WAIT TILL I'M OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK COFFEE, TOO.
WOULD YOU LIKE A SAMPLE?
I WANT TO DRINK SOU-CHAN'S COFFEE...
It was made with this coffee maker here, which is our top seller right now...
ACK... SO BITTER.
I don't like it black
OH!
THANK YOU.

AND I LIKED BEING THERE
LIKE THE SMELL OF COFFEE MORE THAN COFFEE ITSELF
I PROBABLY

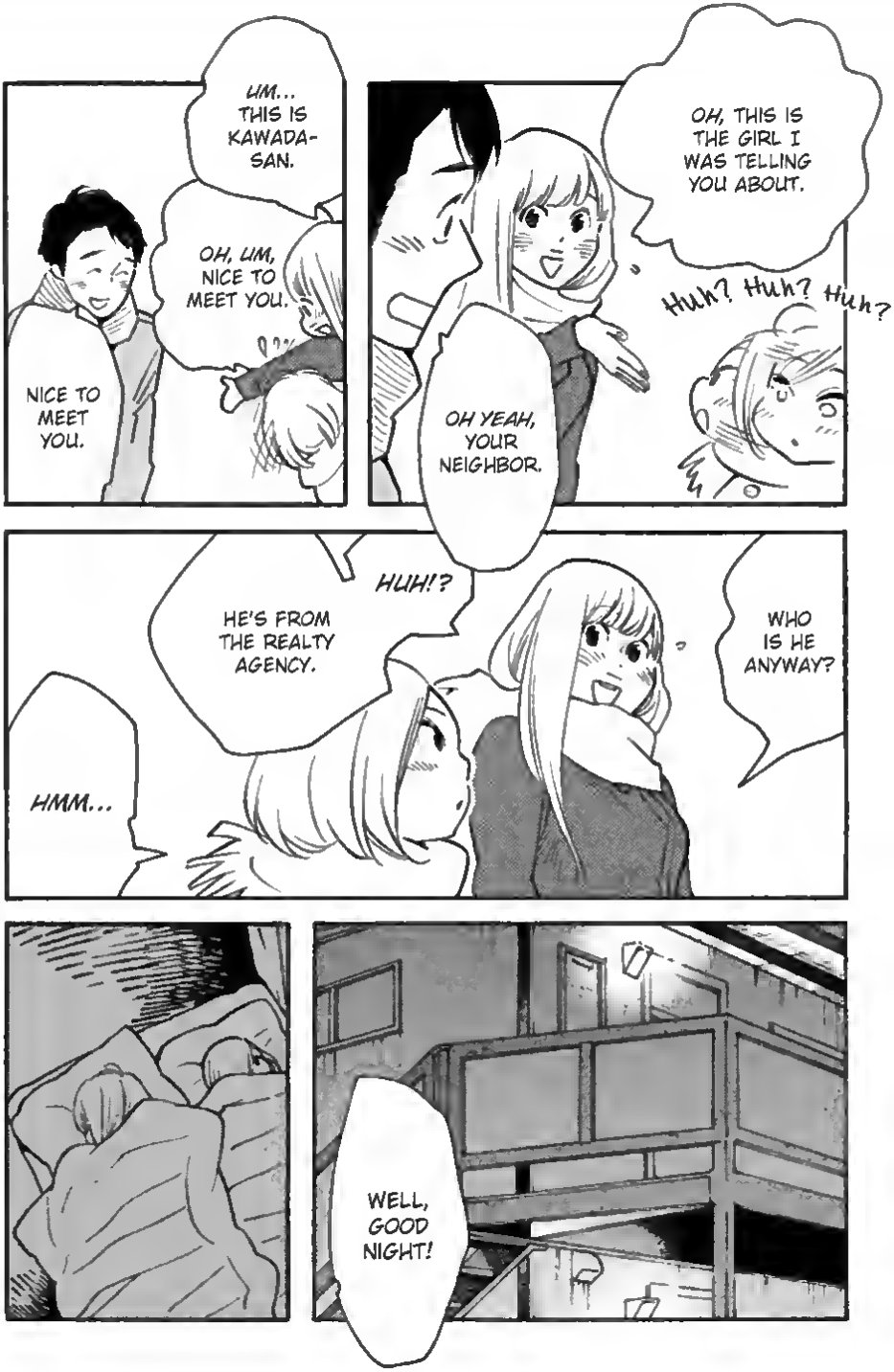

IT'S KIND OF LIKE MY FEELINGS FOR HIM.
I GUESS



BUT I STILL WANTED HIM TO NOTICE ME

EVER SINCE I FIRST FELL FOR HIM,
IN SOME CORNER OF MY HEART I'D ALREADY GIVEN UP

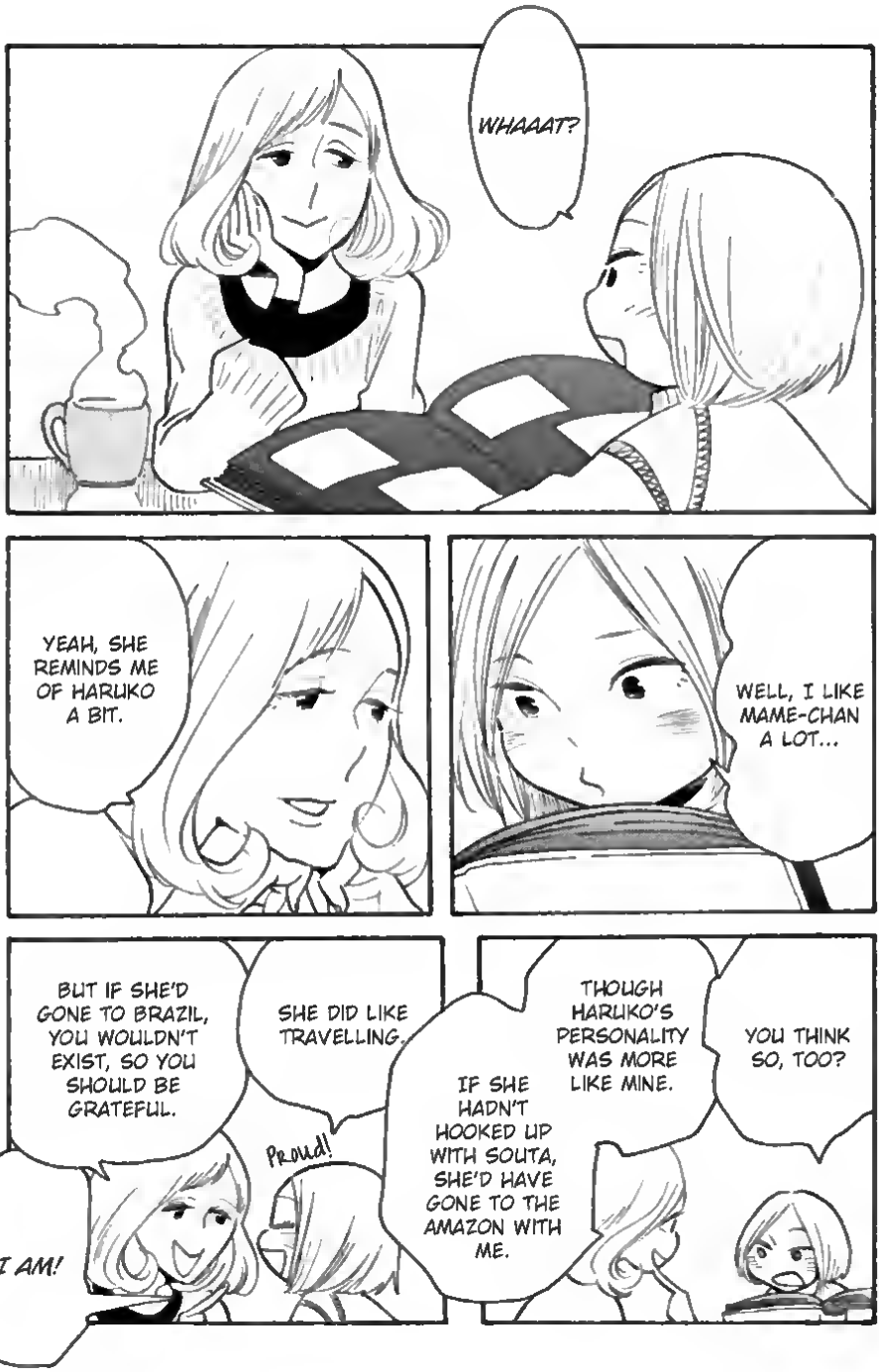
LET'S GET SOME OF THOSE, TOO.
HEY, IT SAYS THESE SWEETS GO WELL WITH COFFEE.
I THINK SIMPLE IS BEST HERE.
YEAH.
The coffee makers are pretty neat, though
ARE YOU OFF WORK ALREADY?
I SEE.
I'VE GOT A MEETING AFTER THIS.
YEAH, I GOT OFF EARLY TODAY.

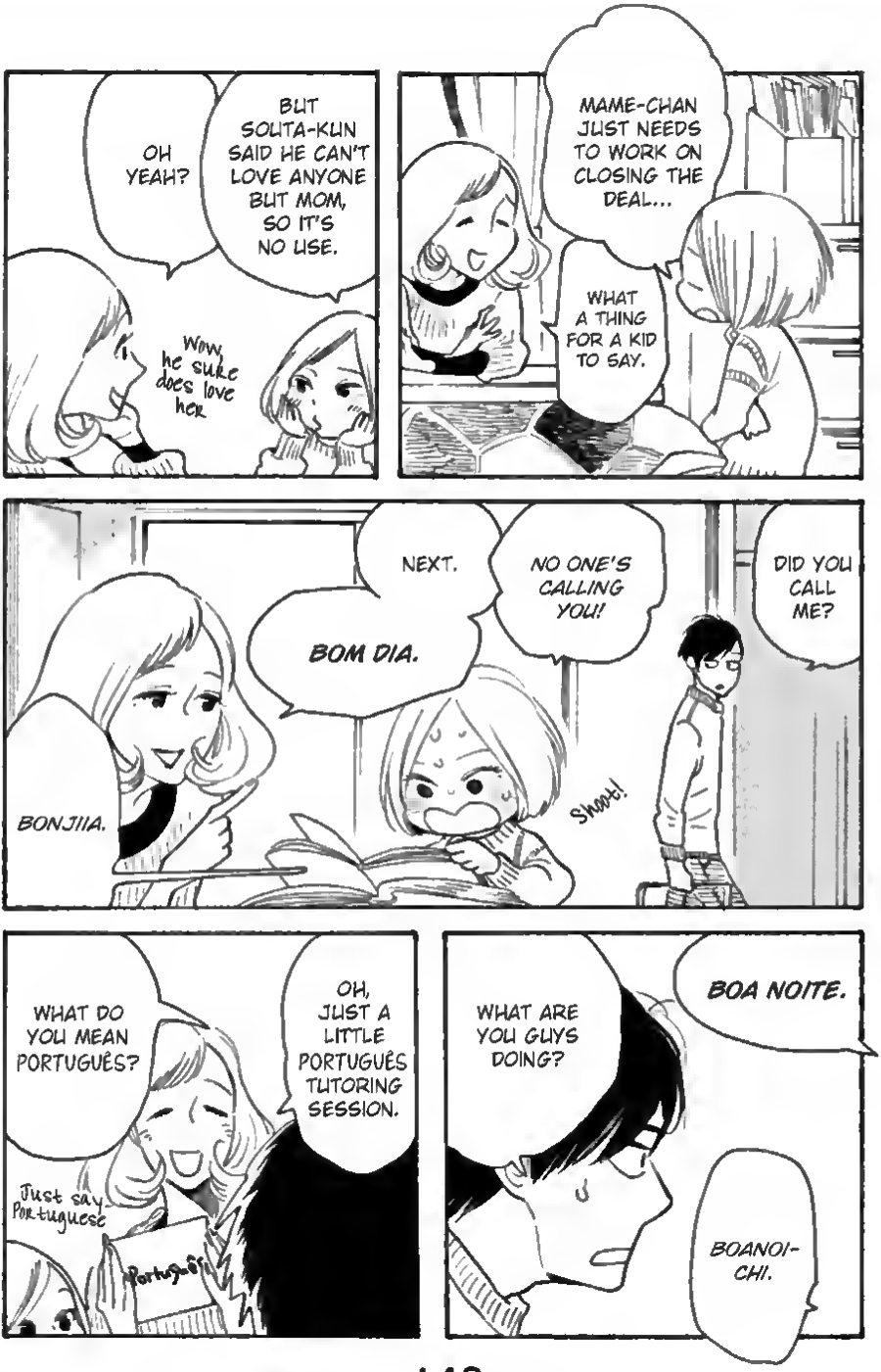

UM... THIS IS KAWADA-SAN.
OH, UM, NICE TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH, THIS IS THE GIRL I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.
Huh? Huh? Huh?
OH YEAH, YOUR NEIGHBOR.
HUH!?
HE'S FROM THE REALTY AGENCY.
WHO IS HE ANYWAY?
HMM...
WELL, GOOD NIGHT!

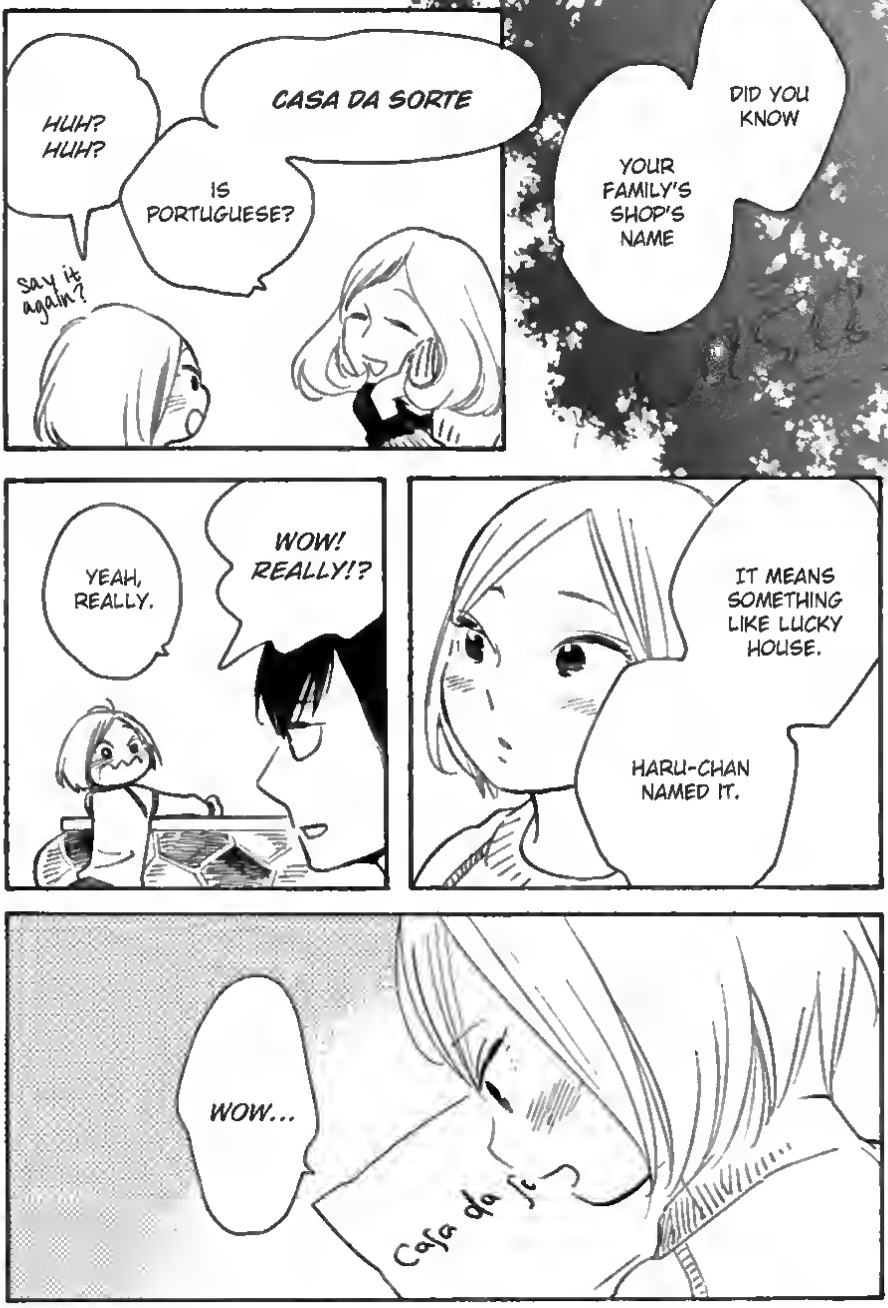
THAT MAN WE SAW TODAY...
HE'S NOT MAME-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND IS HE?

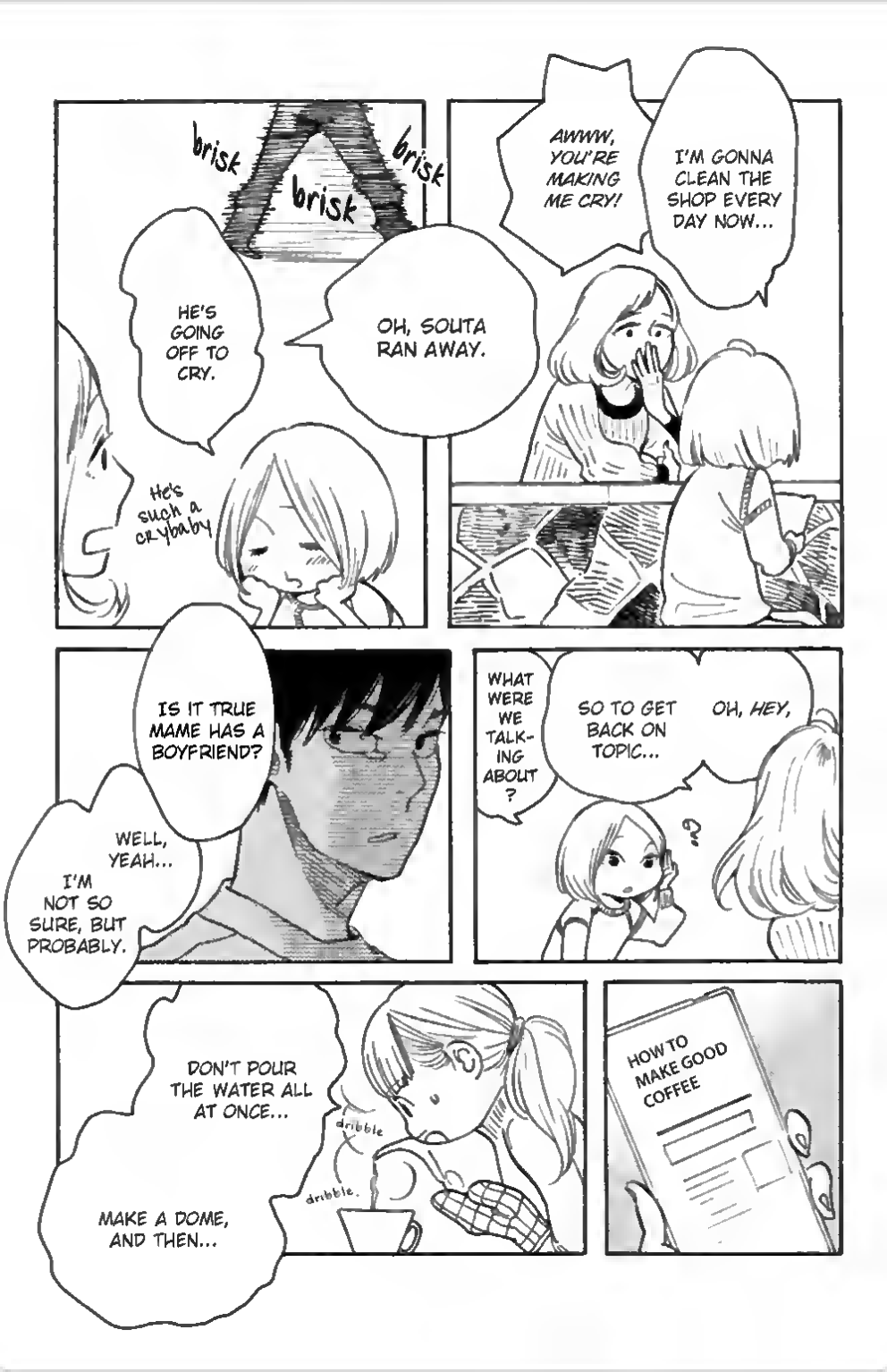
MY HUNCHES ALWAYS TURN OUT TO BE TRUE...

WHY DO YOU WANT MAME AND SOUTA TO GET TOGETHER, YU-CHAN?

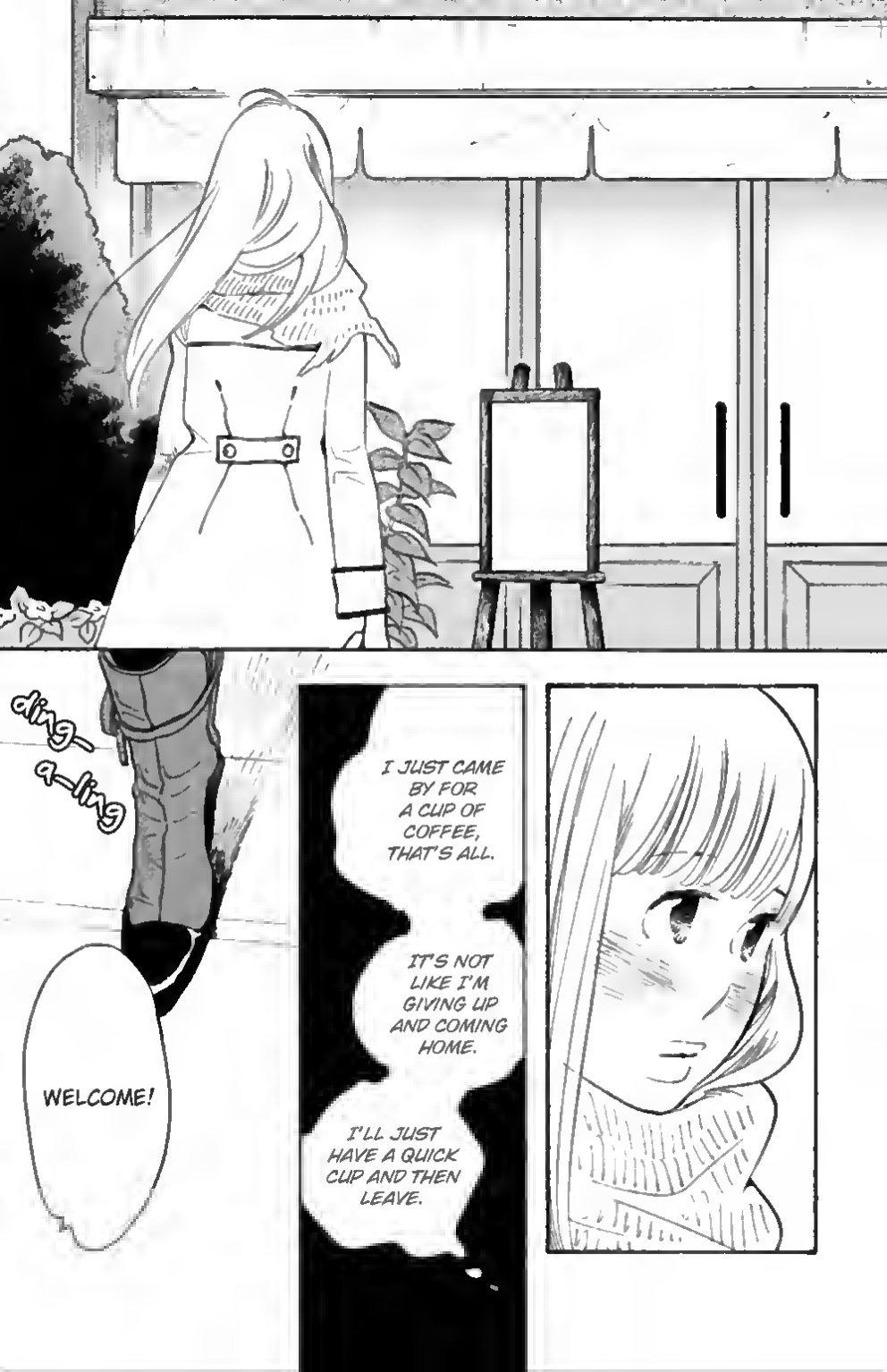

WHAAAT?
YEAH, SHE REMINDS ME OF HARUKO A BIT.
WELL, I LIKE MAME-CHAN A LOT...
BUT IF SHE'D GONE TO BRAZIL, YOU WOULDN'T EXIST, SO YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.
SHE DID LIKE TRAVELLING.
Proud!
I AM!
IF SHE HADN'T HOOKED UP WITH SOUTA, SHE'D HAVE GONE TO THE AMAZON WITH ME.
THOUGH HARUKO'S PERSONALITY WAS MORE LIKE MINE.
YOU THINK SO, TOO?


OH YEAH?
BUT SOUTA-KUN SAID HE CAN'T LOVE ANYONE BUT MOM, SO IT'S NO USE.
Wow, he sure does love her
MAME-CHAN JUST NEEDS TO WORK ON CLOSING THE DEAL...
WHAT A THING FOR A KID TO SAY.
BONJIIA.
BOM DIA.
NEXT.
NO ONE'S CALLING YOU!
Shhh!
DID YOU CALL ME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN PORTUGUÊS?
OH, JUST A LITTLE PORTUGUÊS TUTORING SESSION.
Just say Portuguese
Português
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
BOA NOITE.
BOANOI-CHI.


DID YOU KNOW
YOUR FAMILY'S SHOP'S NAME
CASA DA SORTE
IS PORTUGUESE?
HUH? HUH?
Say it again?
IT MEANS SOMETHING LIKE LUCKY HOUSE.
HARU-CHAN NAMED IT.
WOW! REALLY!?
YEAH, REALLY.
WOW...
Casa da Sorte.....


brisk
brisk
brisk
HE'S GOING OFF TO CRY.
OH, SOUTA RAN AWAY.
He's such a crybaby
AWWW, YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY!
I'M GONNA CLEAN THE SHOP EVERY DAY NOW...
IS IT TRUE MAME HAS A BOYFRIEND?
WELL, YEAH... I'M NOT SO SURE, BUT PROBABLY.
WHAT WERE WE TALK-ING ABOUT?
SO TO GET BACK ON TOPIC...
OH, HEY,
DON'T POUR THE WATER ALL AT ONCE...
MAKE A DOME, AND THEN...
dribble
dribble.
HOW TO MAKE GOOD COFFEE

SIGH... WELL, IT'S A WASTE NOT TO DRINK IT.
plop
ACK!
TOO MUCH.
WAAAH, IT SPILLED INTO THE CARAFE.
Sip
UH-HUH.
THAT'S JUST ABOUT RIGHT.
WELL.
I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.


I JUST CAME BY FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GIVING UP AND COMING HOME.
I'LL JUST HAVE A QUICK CUP AND THEN LEAVE.
ding-
a-ling
WELCOME!

I CAME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE.
...COOL.

THANKS.
DELICIOUS!
OH, NO,
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
HUH!?
NOT VERY GOOD ...
OH YEAH, HOW WAS IT?
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE YOU SENT.

I SEE.
IT JUST TASTES BETTER HERE.
THAT WAS
ALWAYS THE GOAL

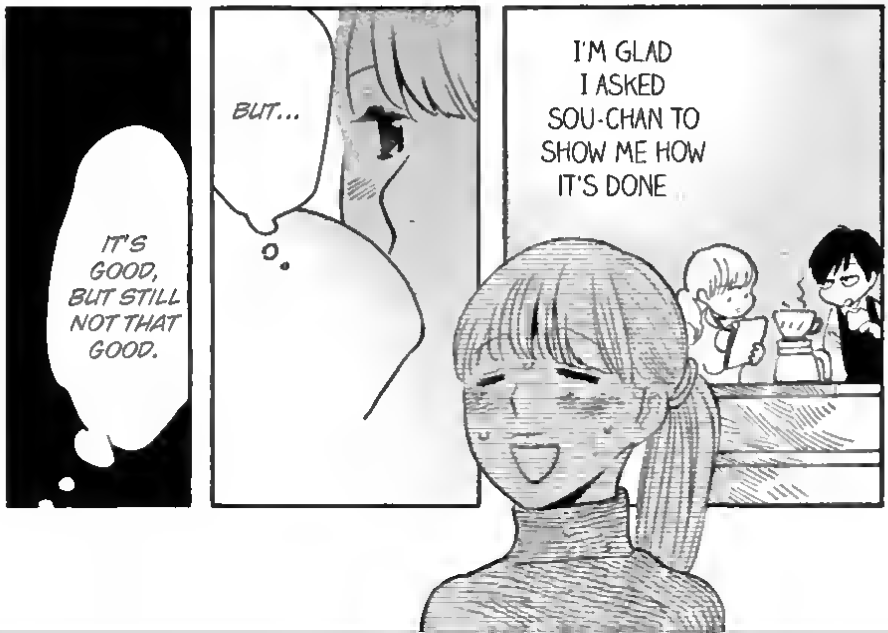
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ORIGINAL.
JUST A HOMEY FEELING OF RELAXATION.
SOMETHING TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL LIKE IT'S NATURAL
TO GET COFFEE HERE...?
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET WELL FIRST.
I GUESS SO.

WHERE'S YU?
AT THE TEMPLE.
I'M GOING TO GO PICK HER UP AND COME BACK HERE.
I CAME BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST COME BY WITH HER AFTER.
THAT'S JUST MAKING TWICE THE WORK FOR YOU.
IT'S LIKE I HAVE TWO KIDS.
WELL, SORRY I'M SUCH A KID.
IS THAT YOUR YOUNG HUSBAND THERE?
SURE IS. HE GETS LONELY ALL THE TIME.
Hello

I DID IT!
I MADE A DOME!
foof...

CaSa

I GOT IT RIGHT THIS TIME!!
YES!


IT'S GOOD, BUT STILL NOT THAT GOOD.
BUT...
I'M GLAD I ASKED SOU-CHAN TO SHOW ME HOW IT'S DONE

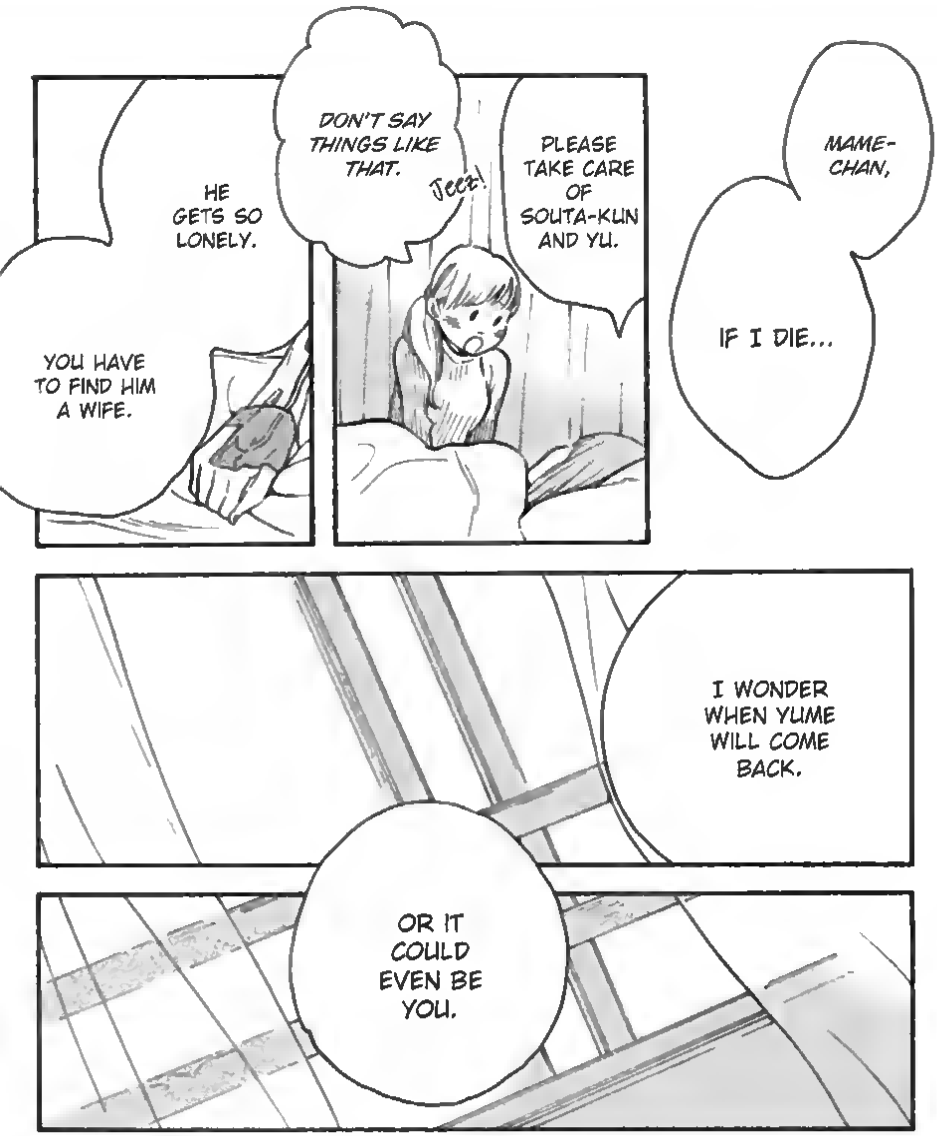
I...
HAVE A KID.
SO I FELT LIKE I'D BETTER GET IT OUT IN THE OPEN.
BUT I WANT TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.
GETTING ALL THIS DUMPED ON YOU PROBABLY MAKES YOU WANT TO RUN THE OTHER WAY

HOW OLD ARE THEY?
HUH?
OH...
YOUR CHILD.
SHE'S 8.
SHE'S IN 3RD GRADE NOW.
SHE'S CUTE.
THERE'S SOMEONE ...

SOMEONE I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR A LOOOOOONG TIME.
I'VE BEEN HOLDING ON TO THIS TOO LONG.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.
IN FACT...I'M PROBABLY STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
UH...
IS THAT THE "FRESH START" YOU TALKED ABOUT ...?
YES.
HE'S 5 YEARS OLDER THAN ME
AND WAS MARRIED
AND HAS A KID.

I'M LIKE A LITTLE SISTER TO HIM.
HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY.
AND SHE WAS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THAT.

SO EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUDDEN,
WE'D ALL BEEN SORT OF PREPARED FOR IT FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT SOU-CHAN ALWAYS BELIEVED SHE'D GET BETTER.
I NEVER HAD FAITH MYSELF...


MAME-CHAN,
IF I DIE...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF SOUTA-KUN AND YU.
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
Jeez!
HE GETS SO LONELY.
YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM A WIFE.
I WONDER WHEN YUME WILL COME BACK.
OR IT COULD EVEN BE YOU.

AS IF.

Afterword Cafe
Koi-iji
2
Shimura Takako
Skee
Did you try to eat it in one bite?
OH!
PLOP
Volume 2 went by so fast.
Hehe he
Thank you so much for reading Koi-iji Vol. 2 all the way to the end!
Oh...
Gaadbye..
End
Thanks as always to O-kura-san and S-ki-san.
And sorry for everything, U-mura-san...
I have to draw a lot every month for that..
And if all goes well, volume 3 will probably be out soon, too!!

I met him as an adult,

so it's neat to hear about his childhaod.

He laughs it aff and says that's just when he was a kid.

But is that really true?

Kyoichi-kun always gat crushes easily.

Kawamura in class 3

Daj in class 2's cute, too

Dear Kyoichi-kun,

Yau're going ta be a father soan and I'm worried.

Lave, your wife, Kayoko

He just says that's what growing up means.

But I figure a lat of his stories have ta do with the girls he dated.

He's told me a lat of stupid stories about junior high and high school,

but the closer we get ta the present, the fewer stories he has.